

FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM!

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GRENADA

imperialism reforges the chains

On 25 October 1983 2,000 US marines landed on Grenada to crush the people's revolution. It was a deliberate escalation of imperialism's attack upon the struggles of the world's oppressed masses to haul themselves out of poverty, despair and death. It was a further step towards open declaration of war against the socialist countries. More immediately, by mobilising its biggest combat force since Vietnam to try and crush the advances of the Grenadan people, the US ruling class has signalled that it is readying these forces for commitment against revolutionary Nicaragua and Cuba.

As the imperial planners that visited their designs upon Grenada finish their celebrating to ponder their next moves, they can consider the sobering ferocity with which the Grenadan patriots and their Cuban comrades resisted the giant war machine. For such skill and courage in fighting to preserve their gains, on an island no bigger than the ranches Cow-

boy Reagan likes to go riding over, will have burned an impression into their imperialist brains – more livid than all the reels of lies they have shown us – of the ultimate price imperialism will have to pay from the anger of the progressive and revolutionary people moving into action across the globe.

MIGHTY IMPERIALISM FEARED GRENADA

On 13 March 1979 the Grenadan people led by the New Jewel Movement (NJM) threw out the British groomed stooge government of Eric Gairy. Like their neighbours on other British Caribbean islands they had seen the horrors of slavery give way to the more subtle, but ultimately just as barbaric, nightmare of colonial and neo-colonial rule, relying upon local placemen to ensure the smooth outflow of profits to the imperial metropolis. Mass unemployment prevailed: 50% on the eve of revolution; ignorance was forced on the people: less than one in five ever received secondary education; malnutrition and disease were rife: Grenada's seas teemed with fish but the people were denied the means to catch them, health care facilities were priced out of the people's reach.

The revolution unlocked the power of Grenadan labour! Together with their People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) Grenadans made what Cuban

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Women defy police and cruise

During the last week at Greenham Common US Air Base (29 October – 3 November) the government, in the guise of police and soldiers, have become blatantly brutal in their treatment of women anti-nuclear protesters. It is important to remember that women demonstrators there use Non-Violent Direct Action and offer passive resistance (ie going 'limp') when arrested. On Saturday 29 October it was decided that we would take down the 9 mile perimeter fence, thereby rendering the first line of the base's security useless and reclaiming the common land which had been taken from the people. At 4pm the 1,000 or so women who had arrived at the Common started to take down the fence, using bolt cutters to cut through the three wires holding the wire mesh to stout concrete posts

Between a third and a half of the fence was totally pulled down, the rest was made totally ineffective. All this was at some cost to the women involved: 2 women had their arms broken by police. I saw at least one woman with her head split open – and heard of several others – as a result of soldiers throwing stones. Women had their fingers badly bruised and in some cases broken by soldiers and policemen hitting their hands with truncheons and kicking out. In the group of 22 Scottish women who went: one woman was arrested when she was holding onto the top part of the fence, when she felt the policeman hold her firmly she went limp, he then dropped her. Her spine and head were badly bruised and she was in shock for several days. Another woman's clothes were pulled up so that her back was cut

when dragged across barbed wire, and another had her breastbone so badly bruised that she was having difficulty breathing. All the women who went were roughly treated in some way. Over the next few days women were repeatedly stopped and searched, some being arrested for walking down the road and on trumped up charges of obstruction.

Then, on the Wednesday, I saw the last bit of police pretence of being the 'upholders of law and order' fall away with tacit approval of the state. Sarah Hipperson – a former Justice of the Peace – was up in Newbury Magistrates Court. On seeing the magistrates she realised that they had tried her before and asked that other magistrates hear her case – her legal entitlement – this they refused and stated that if she wanted to be tried by others she continued on page 7

VICTORY

Prisoners have scored a major victory in the struggle to defend and extend the democratic rights of prisoners in the British prison system. Five prisoners – Tommy Tangney, Chris Clarke and Jimmy Anderson (Wormwood Scrubs), Roy Leyland and Jimmy Tarrant (Albany) – had won a judicial review on the issue of legal representation in internal disciplinary hearings. The Home Office has always refused such representation, fearful of any interference with its victimisation machine. The judgement, on Tuesday 8 November, ruled that legal representation could, and in certain cases should, be allowed at the discretion of the Boards of Visitors. This ruling, though it falls short of granting the right of legal representation, is nonetheless a major blow to the Home Office and a great advance for prisoners.

Thanks to a determined organised campaign by the prisoners, their supporters and their lawyers and the continuing publicity an important victory has been won. The process of condemning Albany and Wormwood Scrubs prisoners to savage punishments in kangaroo courts has been smashed. All the cases already heard will have to be re-opened and legal representation considered. The Home Office has surrounded its internal victimisation machine with a wall of silence the better to ensure that protesting prisoners shall be punished. This victory has blown a hole through the wall of silence and vindicated all the prisoners who have taken part in the struggle for basic rights.

At a time when repression is mounting, both inside and outside the prisons, the lessons of this victory cannot be exaggerated. Once again the fightback has been led by the oppressed. Once again it has been demonstrated that an

organised fightback can win important gains. FRFI is proud to have played a part in this campaign. Our congratulations to the lawyers and supporters who fought for this success. But most of all our congratulations go to the prisoners themselves for securing this advance not only for prisoners but indeed for the working class as a whole.

WHAT THE PRISONERS HAVE WON

The bourgeois and left media have, predictably, either ignored or misreported this ruling. Therefore it is necessary to lay out the main details of the ruling. In essence the ruling declared that Boards of Visitors can at their discretion, grant prisoners legal representation. The ruling laid down a number of criteria which must be considered in allowing or refusing legal representation:

The severity of the case and/or the punishment

The most serious charges (Rule 52) are mutiny, incitement to mutiny or gross personal violence to a prison officer. These charges carry an unlimited penalty of loss of remission. This fact alone provides powerful support for the demand for legal representation. However other lesser charges can have serious consequences – either through multiple consecutive sentences or effect on parole applications for example – and therefore legal representation should be demanded. It is important to note that Boards cannot refuse legal representation on the grounds that they will not impose a serious penalty as this would amount to prejudging the case.

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PRISONERS FIGHT BACK

Political Statement

On 4 January 1983 two young prisoners, John Bowden and Jimmy McCaig, held hostage in his office the governor of Parkhurst top security jail for nearly thirty hours. Their aims were to 'lift the lid off Parkhurst jail and expose the brutality and enforced drugging of "awkward" prisoners' and to 'highlight the wrongful transfer of rebellious prisoners to Top Security Mental hospitals.'

The two have remained in solitary ever since. John Bowden has been told by POA members to 'expect to spend the rest of his natural life in utter sensory deprivation.' *Political Statement of the John Bowden Brigade* is a pamphlet containing John Bowden's statement of commitment to struggle against the prison system which 'exists

as a beautifully clear reflection of all that is most oppressive and deprived in civil society'. It also contains an account of the committal proceedings against Bowden and McCaig, a farce of justice. It clearly stands in solidarity with Irish Republican POWs and shows a determination to fight in solidarity with all those fighting the British imperialist system. There are now numerous prisoners, together with those political prisoners such as the Irish POWs, 'who, heroically, suffer extreme personal violence as a consequence of challenging an unjust system (and who) are indeed very much representative of the finest spirit of the human revolutionary'. Available from 14 Warren Road, Leyton, London E10. Tony Sheridan



The above sketches appeared in the *Observer* (30 October 1983) and are said to be of a prisoner named John Steele in the punishment block in Peterhead prison. Drawn by an inmate they were smuggled out and passed to the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties (SCCL) over a year ago. Now they have emerged once more (faces blanked to protect the *Observer*) under the heading 'Prisoner claims he was tortured'.

Further evidence of mental, physical and chemical abuse being used to break strong men has also emerged in letters smuggled out to the SCCL from three inmates including John Steele, this time from Inverness.

The article goes on to inform us that despite suffering from worsening sinus and chest ailments, John Steele is now being held in the notorious 'cages' in Inverness where prolonged deprivation, constant brutality, drugging and neglect are the order of the day. In his letter he says this is his fourth spell in the 'cage' then goes on to say 'The cage is for an animal'.

A Scottish Office spokesman said,

'As far as any prisoner with allegations of brutality and harassment is concerned, he can complain to the governor and to the Secretary of State after which to any outside body.' Terrific! In most prisons the complaints procedure is a sick joke, another stick to torment the inmates with, particularly those who refuse to surrender their self-respect to their tormentors.

This same Scottish Office 'spook' tries to assure us that drugs are administered 'As medical treatment only on the instructions of a medical officer,' and that, 'The MOs at Peterhead and Inverness are both local GPs'. Evidently they wish to draw a distinction between local GPs and, as in most prisons, full time prison doctors who by the indiscriminate use of drugs and a shameful disregard for their long term side-effects on prisoners, are bringing their profession into disrepute.

The plight of John Steele is alas the plight of many fine young men at this very moment. Their courage and tenacity are an example to us all... Gerry Russell

FRFI FOR PRISONERS

FRFI needs your help. We need your money to carry on the political service we provide to prisoners. There are many political prisoners and others who are becoming political in British prisons. They have a right to read FRFI and other political literature.

FRFI is already sent free of charge to over 50 prisoners, and more are added each week to the list. In addition, FRFI provides many prisoners with books, pamphlets and other material they cannot easily obtain.

We appeal to all our readers to help us continue providing these necessary political services. Please send us a donation. You can send £4 to cover an FRFI subscription for a prisoner, or any donation large or small. Please rush your donation to:

FRFI
BCM Box 5909
London WC1N 3XX.
Cheques and postal orders payable to Larkin Publications.

LIFE MEANS LIFE

Home Secretary Leon Brittan's statement on 11 October heralds a major increase in the repression directed against British prisoners. Under the guise of 'fighting crime' Brittan has ensured that anyone the state considers to be a threat will receive savage sentences in increasingly barbaric prisons.

Brittan announced:

- *Minimum* sentences of 20 years in prison for anyone convicted of
 - murder of police or prison officers
 - 'Terrorist' murder
 - Murder in the course of armed robbery
 - Sexual murder of children
- Anyone convicted of killing security guards, nightwatchmen, post office workers would get 'very long' sentences.
- Anyone convicted of carrying firearms in 'furtherance of crime' would get life sentences.
- Anyone sentenced to more than 5 years for 'crimes of violence' would not be eligible for parole.
- New legislation to allow the Attorney General to refer 'over-lenient' sentences to the Court of Appeal.

Brittan also made it clear that 20 years is the *minimum* that lifers will serve. Prisoners that the Home Secretary considers to be a 'danger' will not be released at all. He said that 'in such cases a life sentence may indeed mean life.'

These measures constitute the most reactionary attack on prisoners for decades. They were announced to the Tory Party Conference to pander to the most vicious prejudices of the blood-thirsty Tory pack. As always, this fresh barbarism was justified as 'protecting law and order'. In fact it is aimed specifically at those who attack property, the guardians of property or the repressive agents of the state.

Even the mildly liberal *Guardian* journalist Peter Jenkins was driven to fiercely attack Brittan's proposals pointing out that they would worsen what Jenkins described as 'one of the most repressive and barbaric penal regimes in the world'. For even before these new measures Britain already had the

longest sentences and the *highest* prison population per capita in Europe. And now hand in hand with longer sentences is going a new prison building programme which will produce 10 new prisons by 1991 with 4,800 places. No cuts here - by 1987 £40m will have been spent building prisons. So much for Brittan's alleged reforms which he claimed would reduce the prison population!

The effect of the new measures will be devastating. Increasing numbers of prisoners will be locked away for life. And who will those prisoners be? They will be predominantly Irish, black, poor and other working class people. In short those who most threaten the capitalist system whether through organised political action or through individual attacks on the property of the rich. The ruling class know that as the crisis of its system deepens, resistance in all forms will grow. It is preparing its legal, judicial and prison system to meet this threat. The new attack on prisoners goes hand in hand with the Police Bill and the renewed Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Already prisoners have no rights. They are beaten, drugged, thrown into solitary confinement, transferred arbitrarily from prison to prison. As more prisoners are condemned to longer sentences and forced to fight back the regime will be made even more repressive. Within a day of Brittan's speech the Prison Officers' Association had said there would be increased trouble in the prisons and that Control Units should be brought back. Prisons are centres of terror aimed at striking fear into the working class and oppressed.

Predictably the Labour and trade union movement has done nothing to oppose the new measures. The only opposition has come from a handful of liberal figures in the media and legal professions, the prisoners themselves

Circular 10/74

'troublemakers'

In his statement exposing the truth about the Albany protest, Irish POW Eddie O'Neill points to the increasing use of secret instruction CI 10/74 against prisoners who resist the prison terror regime. This instruction is a punitive device designed to break up protests, isolate resisting prisoners and bury them in solitary confinement.

The instruction applies to 'troublesome prisoners' and provides for 'secure cells' in local prisons for 'the use of governors of dispersal prisons to accommodate troublemakers temporarily and at short notice for a cooling off period'.

Paragraph 3 states that this 'facility' is for 'a troublemaker' who has to be 'removed'. Why? 'Because of an *imminently* explosive situation caused by his actual or *impending* disruptive behaviour'. 'Disruptive behaviour' means resistance. They have to be sent to another prison rather than thrown into solitary in their own prison: 'either because the prisoner would still be able to exercise a disruptive influence from the segregation unit... or because... the prisoner provides a focal point for prisoner unrest' and therefore throwing the prisoner into the segregation unit of the prison could have a 'provocative and explosive effect on the rest of the establishment'. In other words, resisting prisoners have to be transferred to another prison in case other prisoners protest in solidarity!

Paragraph 9 ensures that: 'Prisoners transferred under these arrangements

will *always* be made subject to the provisions of Prison Rule 43' - ie unlimited solitary confinement. Paragraph 10 states that transferred prisoners will 'enjoy no greater privileges than any other Rule 43 "subversive" prisoner'. 'Troublemaker' has now become the slightly more honest 'subversive'.

The instruction lays down a maximum limit of 28 days solitary. In fact there is no effective limit as Rule 43 solitary confinement is infinitely renewable. Ray McLoughlin has been in solitary for nearly six months since he was transferred from Albany under CI 10/74.

CI 10/74 is a repressive instrument. It is designed to isolate and intimidate resisting prisoners. Its growing use is yet further evidence of the growing resistance. And the continuing fight back of Albany and Wormwood Scrubs prisoners shows that this repressive weapon, like all the others, will fail to break the resistance in the prisons.

Terry O'Halloran
*Grateful acknowledgements to PROP for providing a copy of CI 10/74.

and their supporters. The prisoners immediately began protests all over the country. The prisons are in turmoil. Censorship, punishments and transfers under CI 10/74 are being used by the Home Office to break these protests and suppress news about them. However the following examples have broken the wall of silence:

- Long Lartin - A work strike began immediately after Brittan's announcements.
- Maidstone - 90 out of 150 prisoners signed a round robin protest petition.
- Winson Green - Cells were smashed up after the Governor announced that prisoners should not bother applying for parole. He withdrew the statement. Prisoners' wives staged a demonstration outside the prison.
- Gartree - the authorities announced that they feared a protest and in the event of it breaking out would withdraw screws to the perimeter fence.
- Wakefield - 25 prisoners are known to have been put in solitary under Rule 43 in the notorious F-Wing. It is not known why.

Once again it is the prisoners who at great personal sacrifice are defending the rights of the working class as a whole by fighting back against ruling class reaction. The comparative ease with which the Tories have introduced these new measures confirms the vital necessity to defend the rights of prisoners and oppose the barbaric prison regime.

Maxine Williams
Terry O'Halloran

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Complexity of the case

Mutiny is, in itself, a complex legal charge and therefore demands legal representation for an adequate defence. But any charge - especially where it is related to the actions of a group of prisoners - can raise complex legal issues, the issue of intent in assault cases for example, and therefore legal representation should be demanded.

Preparation and presentation of defence

In nearly all cases prisoners on disciplinary charges are put in solitary denying them access to witnesses, any chance of gathering evidence etc. This alone provides a ground for demanding legal representation. Mental or physical handicaps, language problems, illiteracy etc can all prevent a prisoner from being able to conduct his/her own defence and therefore legal representation is required. Also, if cross-examination is important in a prisoner's defence then skilled legal training is needed ie a lawyer.

Any one of these considerations provides grounds for demanding a lawyer. The combined effect of these criteria means that legal representation would almost certainly have to be granted in Rule 52 cases and many Rule 51 cases. If in doubt demand legal representation! Legal aid will be available for prisoners. The standard of proof will now be the criminal standard ie 'beyond a reasonable doubt'. The ruling indicated that Governors' adjudications will now be open to judicial review. Finally the sentences against Tommy Tangney, Chris Clarke and Roy Leyland were quashed.

How far this victory goes in practice will depend how much use prisoners and their supporters make of it. Doubtless attempts will be made to circumvent the ruling and prisoners' access to lawyers will be illegally interfered with. As in the habit of letters to lawyers 'getting lost' (recorded delivery is a useful safeguard against this). The task now is test this ruling to its limits so that the victory gained can be made as big as possible.

Terry O'Halloran

SNHDC: Double victory

On 26 and 27 October, the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign scored a double victory against the Stoke Newington police with the acquittal of Ace Kelly and Fitzroy Andrew in Snaresbrook Crown Court. This double victory is a serious blow to the Stoke Newington police vendetta against the SNHDC in particular and any organisation of black people in general. It is a severe setback to the police campaign to criminalise and silence those who have campaigned for the truth about the death of Colin Roach.

ACE KELLY

For Ace Kelly, Chair of the SNHDC, this case was the fourth frame-up attempt by the police since the Colin Roach campaign began. Having failed to convict Ace on any charges arising out of the Colin Roach protests, the police resorted to their old tactic for black youth—a possession of cannabis charge.

Ace had been arrested at Old Street Magistrates Court on 28 March. He was taken to Stoke Newington Police Station where he was searched by PC Keddy and Inspector Monaghan. A ball of tobacco was found behind his right ear where Ace had hidden it fearing a long spell in police custody. Mysteriously this tobacco turned into 2.61 grams of cannabis.

In the trial the police frame-up fell apart. PC Keddy who assaulted and racially abused Ace on 28 March, was adamant that he found a 'loose ball' of cannabis behind Ace's right ear and it 'fell apart in his hand'. Inspector Monaghan was equally adamant that two 'tight' balls of tobacco mixed up with cannabis had been found, one behind each ear. The cannabis produced in court was dry leaf, stalk and seed—impossible to roll into a ball of any kind 'tight' or 'loose'. Bizarre irregularities emerged as well. PC Keddy's notebook had 1½ pages of notes on Ace which had clearly been written by a different police officer. PC Keddy could not understand how these 'extra' notes got there. Nor could Sergeant Young explain it though he did reluctantly admit to being the author of the 'extra' notes having previously vigorously asserted that 'this is not the sort of thing I would do'.

The police had gone to elaborate lengths to pursue their vendetta. As defence barrister James Wood pointed out, this 'simple' drugs case was daily attended by many senior police officers. Amongst them was Chief Inspector Anderson who attended every day but gave no evidence in this trial. Yet he had supervised Ace's arrest and had threatened to 'get' Ace. Sergeant Young, who did give evidence, just happened to be the station sergeant on the night that Colin Roach died in Stoke Newington police station. The presence of so many senior policemen was ample evidence of the special attention Ace had received all along for his activities in pursuance of truth and justice over Colin Roach's death.

The police absurdly denied that there were ill-feelings between the police and the black community in Stoke Newington. PC Keddy went so far as to claim that he could not recall a single conversation between police officers about the protests over Colin's death! Appearing for the defence, Anthony Kendall, leader of Hackney Council, pointed out that unlike the police version of events there were indeed feelings of animosity and distrust between the police and the community. He said it was 'inconceivable' that Ace, knowing the dangers of arrest he faced, would have cannabis in his possession.

After nearly four hours the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. They had believed the truth—told by Ace Kelly—and rejected the lies of Stoke Newington police. They had also ignored the Judge's extremely unfavourable summing up. Ace Kelly had been brought to

court four times on trumped up charges and acquitted. He is now suing the police.

These trials were in fact a battle between the police and the people as shown by the fact that on the one hand black and white supporters of SNHDC, FRFI and City Anti-Apartheid Group picketed the court and packed the public gallery. On the other hand, police also packed the public gallery and on the last day of Ace's trial a vanload of Instant Response Unit police parked outside the court as supporters were excluded from the public gallery.

The victory was also a blow against

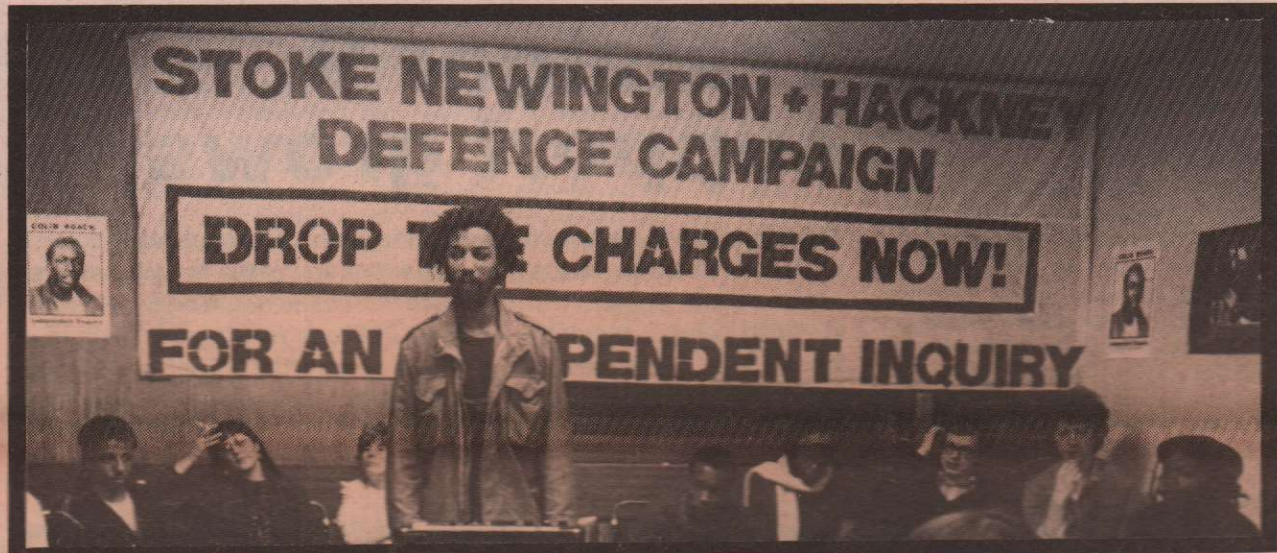
leading a charge of mainly black youth and that Fitzroy punched him on the bridge of the nose and that when he arrested him about 5 other youths were kicking and punching him. PC Smith claimed there were between 15 and 20 youths attacking PC Martin and yet the photographs of Fitzroy's arrest show no youth anywhere nearby at all! The photographs also show that there was no blood around at the start of the arrest although there are clear blood spots in the road at the end implying that PC Martin sustained his injury during the arrest. Both PC Martin and PC Smith claimed that no police officers were running and that no charge took place and yet the photographs clearly showed police officers running up the High Street in a line, neither did they mention in their statements the third officer PC Fitzpatrick who clearly took a prominent part in the arrest from the photographs. In the light of these lies the jury was able to quickly reach a unanimous verdict of not guilty.

Fitzroy's family, James Roach—Colin's father, Councillor Dennis Twomey and supporters of the Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign were in court to support Fitzroy.

These two victories have been achieved by consistent organised legal and political defence of the right of the black community to demonstrate. Political defence work, well-prepared cases, selection of lawyers who are prepared to take on the police, publicity in the community and elsewhere, these were the ingredients of success. As Ace Kelly said after the case:

'These cases prove the need to organise against all police attacks. Let this be a clear message to the police, especially Stoke Newington police, black people will not take their attacks any longer but will fight them on every front'.

**Dare to Struggle! Dare to Win!
Terry, Ace and Sarah**



Ace Kelly speaks at SNHDC public meeting.

Sir Kenneth Newman, head of London police who had earlier claimed that the Colin Roach campaign was being used as a front for stolen goods and drugs dealing. This clearly could have prejudiced Ace's case given that his was the only drugs charge of the 100 arrests during the campaign.

FITZROY ANDREW

It took the jury only 15 minutes to find Fitzroy Andrew, friend and next door neighbour of the Roach family, not guilty of assaulting PC Geoffrey Martin (G134) causing actual bodily harm on the 22 January 1983 demonstration. PC Martin had sustained swelling, and abrasions on his nose.

When returning home after the demonstration Fitzroy was walking down Stoke Newington High Street towards Stoke Newington police station when he was caught between two lines of charging police officers. Fitzroy tried to get out of their way and was grabbed from behind by PC Martin. Two other police officers, PC Smith (G485) and PC Fitzpatrick (W212) joined in and Fitzroy was pushed to the ground and beaten unconscious. He was then handcuffed and dragged backwards into the police station. Fitzroy, when he asked what he was going to be charged with, was told 'We'll think of that later'. When he was being photographed in the station he was unable to stand up straight due to a hip injury during the arrest and was twice hit in the face by PC Martin. Repeated requests for this photograph by the defending barrister were ignored by the police.

PC Martin claimed that Fitzroy was

BROADWATER 4 VERDICT 4

Two of the Broadwater 4 were found not guilty after a two day trial at Tottenham Magistrates Court. Glasford Stirling and Diane Anderson were found not guilty, but Trevor Browne and Delroy Lindo were both found guilty.

The events that led up to the Broadwater 4 Defence Campaign started on the night of 31 October/1 November 1982 when a youth was arrested for a crime that the youths on the Farm knew he could not have committed. So we went down to the police station to prove that the youth was innocent. Riot clad police were brought in to arrest Delroy who is said to have broken the glass in the station door. Three more youths were arrested. Glasford's nose was broken when he was arrested. The next day the police surrounded the Farm for three days and nights, provoking the youths and hoping that they would fall in their hands so that they can get some more black blood.

In court the prosecution suggested that we went down to Tottenham police station to start violence and not to prove why the youth was innocent. One officer said that I (Stirling) and I (Anderson) barged past him (all of fit and I know). That set everyone in a state of laughter and even the magistrate had to smile. Another officer could not say how he got my name in his notebook and was then asked how did he know it was me who had pulled him by his shoulder if he was totally concentrating on the arrest

of another youth. He replied that he took a 'quick glimpse'!

Trevor was found guilty for obstruction of the police and he was ordered to pay £150, and Delroy Lindo was found guilty for breaking the police door. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay £161, although I feel that the only reason he got this fine was because the magistrate was not sure who had broken the door. One of the police officers who was giving evidence said he could see Mr Lindo clearly—through the frosted glass door which was covered by metal wire!

On the night of our arrest, on our release we immediately made complaints about the police who had arrested us. Glasford is now taking civil action against the police who broke his nose. Trevor is appealing against his conviction. As our barrister said in the court the police show disrespect for the youths on the Farm and other black minorities and will continue to do so.

Forward Ever! Backward Never!

Diane Anderson

Broadwater 4 Defence Campaign,
c/o Unit 2, Tangmere, Broadwater
Farm, Tottenham N17.

in brief

● Pregnant Asian women used by racist doctors

Asian women were being used as human guinea pigs in medical research without them even knowing about it. 80 pregnant Asian women were used to test calcium and vitamin deficiency in pregnancy. On visits to the Central Middlesex Hospital in Acton, the women were given varying amounts of calcium and vitamin D, with some women given none at all—even though it is known that deficiency can have serious effects for the mother and cause neonatal fits, mental damage, and even death for the child. This was going on for 5 months without the knowledge of hospital authorities, and was exposed by junior doctors worried that some women with deficiencies were not being treated.
Tessa Harris

● Deportation of Josephine Thomas

Josephine Thomas first came to England from Grenada in 1962. In 1976, she returned to Grenada to look after her sick mother. When she came back to Britain in 1979, she was told that she had broken a Home Office ruling, allowing her to stay out of the country for only two years. Moves began to deport her.

On 11 November, Josephine's case came up before the Immigration Appeal Court in Leeds but was adjourned at lunchtime. A picket of about 70 people including FRFI supporters assembled outside the court. Contact Josephine Thomas Support Committee, c/o 54 Deighton Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2UF. Donations should be sent there.
Chris Taylor

● Racist Bakery

The uselessness of the 1976 Race Relations Act was shown in the case of Percy Ingle Bakeries, who have nearly 30 shops in the East End, when an ex-manageress complained she had been told not to employ black people. 98% of the staff who work behind the scenes are black yet only 1 of 140 shop workers is black. Despite openly admitting their refusal to employ black people Percy Ingles were found not to be in breach of the Race Relations Act. The tribunal ruled that a rule designed to exclude all black people is not discrimination!
Sarah

● Racist attacks on Asian premises

In Manchester October has seen increased racist attacks on Asian premises in Ardwick, Longsight and Moss Side. In one incident the family living upstairs escaped by jumping from a window, the father sustaining a broken leg. In the Ardwick incident the shop staff averted serious injury by throwing the firebomb back into the street before it exploded. As usual no arrests have been made after these attacks even though, in the Ardwick incident, it is known who carried out the attack.
Brendan

Newham 8

The trial of the Newham 8 is due to begin at the Old Bailey on Monday 14 November. The Newham 8—eight Asian youths—were arrested in September 1982. Their 'offence' was attempting to organise community defence against mounting racist attacks by fascists. The 8 face charges ranging from conspiracy to assault to actual bodily harm and threatening behaviour. These are serious charges designed to prevent black people from defending themselves against fascist attacks. The case has been transferred from Snaresbrook Crown Court to the Old Bailey. A full report on the case will be in next month's FRFI. In the meantime FRFI urges readers to support the Newham 8 by attending the daily pickets of the court.

For further information contact the Newham 8 Defence Campaign at 555-3331.
Terry Marlowe

POLICE BILL REVIVED

The new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill went through its second reading in the House of Commons on 7 November. Labour opposition to it was very much restricted to the like of Shadow Home Secretary Kaufman's statement that it would do little to protect people from crime. And of course a few MPs like Alf Dubs made the token point that it was 'damaging to the civil liberties of this country'. All tame and paltry stuff in the face of legislation which will give the police powers to detain suspects for 96 hours, set up road blocks, conduct forcible intimate body searches, stop and search people on 'reasonable suspicion' and make it easier for statements extorted by police pressure to be accepted in courts.

Some of the professional bodies, lawyers, doctors etc, were critical of the previous (and not very different) version of the Bill. The government has introduced some extremely tiny changes to placate them. For instance forcible body searches can no longer be conducted to look for evidence of a crime BUT can be conducted for 'protective reasons' ie to look for a concealed weapon. Some change! It is not clear whether the professional bodies will renew their criticism but they are keeping very quiet about the new Bill. Nor is the GLC-funded campaign against the Police Bill mobilising serious opposition to the Bill. The consequences of this lack of a fight against new repressive legislation will be felt most severely by those who will be on the receiving end of police brutes with even greater powers. The working class and oppressed, the youth and black youth especially will bear the brunt of the attack. Three recent cases show what the police are doing now even before they get their new law.

● Michael Francois has already served eighteen months of a five year prison sentence for burglary. He is fighting police repression that will be extended by the new Bill - the power to search homes of 'suspects'. The police raided his flat and seized tapes and defence files on a pending court case. Mike organised pickets of Brixton police and got the documents back, but ruling class, 'justice' still convicted him. Only now have the appeal judges admitted that the police 'got behind the right to silence' of a defendant and given Michael leave to appeal. The Police Bill will hold a 'suspect' in contempt of court if he refuses police admission to his home.

● Errol Madden's civil action against the police has just resulted in a £1,680 out of court settlement. Errol was stopped and searched by police who found on him something extremely suspicious - two toy cars. After hours of interrogation in Battersea police station

Errol at last signed a false confession at 5am. In court he was able to produce receipts and a witness proving he had bought the toys. The new Bill will allow police to hold a suspect for 48 hours without legal representation and for a further 48 hours before they bring a charge.

What lies in store for those who get caught under the police's increased powers of arrest is made all too clear by the nauseous brutality of Detective Sergeant Morton of Birmingham police. Junior Williams was arrested at British Leyland's Longbridge plant on 'suspicion' of stealing four light clusters. The theft charge was eventually dropped, but not before the brave men of the CID had left their mark. Detective Constable Dart gave evidence that at Longbridge police station DS Morton, together with DCs Stephen and Lambert, took Junior into a CID room, slammed the door shut, and Dart heard shouts of 'you did it ... admit it', a disturbance and sobbing. Then Junior came out with blood gushing down his face, a bloodied nose, bruised ribs and a black eye. Morton was propping up Junior, behind him Lambert could be seen wiping bloodstains from the floor. At his trial for Actual Bodily Harm Morton claimed that Junior had thrown up his hands to his head and beat himself up.

It is noteworthy that this cry about suspects beating themselves up was frequently heard in the Six Counties of Ireland when Newman was head of the RUC there. A tide of complaints about RUC brutality was met by Newman's pronouncements first that it was all IRA propaganda, second that the injuries were 'self-inflicted'.

New police powers will mean more beatings, frame-ups and deaths in custody. It says something about the Labour Party that not a single Labour MP has yet made this simple and obvious point.

Andy Goddard

Chapeltown youth confront police spies

On Thursday afternoon of 13 October, Chapeltown police arrested two youths outside the Hayfield Pub on the corner of Reginald Terrace and Chapeltown Road. A confrontation between black youth and the police followed, which the police called 'a small disturbance', with stones and bricks hurled at the police.

The youth outside the Hayfield Pub later noticed that there were cameras pointing down at them from the upstairs window of the dentist's at 168 Chapeltown Road. The police have been spying on the youth as they come to and from the Hayfield. This was later proved when some youth broke into the dentist's and found cameras and surveil-

lance equipment. The police were quick to try and cover up their spying on the youth and arrived on the scene. Again the youth attacked the police with stones.

The police have denied that they have used the dentist's for spying, saying that the matter is 'sub judice' - ie they don't want to say anything before they have



One of the Trafalgar 9 being arrested outside South Africa House on 8 June

Trafalgar 9 support grows

The 9 young people arrested on 8 June whilst demonstrating outside the South African embassy, Trafalgar Square, at the hanging of three ANC freedom fighters will now have their case heard on 5 December at North London Magistrates Court in Stoke Newington, instead of Bow Street. FRFI readers are urged to join the picket outside the court at 9.45am, and every day that the trial continues. We must defend those who are being punished by the British state for demonstrating against apartheid.

In recent weeks we have gained much support in our fight to defend democratic rights. Our list of sponsors for the campaign grows day by day! The up-to-date list is:

MPs: Richard Balfe, Frank Dobson, Chris Smith, Dennis Skinner, Jo Richardson, Norman Atkinson, Harriet Harman, Ernie Roberts.

Ken Livingstone (GLC), Tony Benn, Reg Race (GLC), Paul Boateng (GLC Police Committee), Julie Christie, Jill Tweedie, Alan Brien, James Cameron, Jake Ecclestone (NUJ), Ken Cameron (Fire Brigades Union).

Councillors: Ben Bousquet (Kensington & Chelsea), Joe Hegarty (Westminster), Vince Allan (Westminster), Andrew Dismore (Westminster), Madge Cavalla (Westminster), Robert Latham (Camden), John Wakeham (Camden), Mary Cane (Camden), Richard Sumray (Camden), Greg Thomson (Camden), Patrick Streeter Tower Hamlets, Derek Hines (Islington), Bill Bowring, (Lambeth), Terry Rich (Lambeth), Dave Wetzel (GLC), Andy Harris (GLC/ILEA), J. McDonnell (GLC). Others: Jim Slater (Gen Sec. Nat. Union of Seamen), John Davenport (AUEW/TASS London Central), City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, Broadwater Defence Campaign, Battersea & Wandsworth Trades Council, South London Irish Solidarity Committee, Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, NALGO GLC/ILEA, Westminster North Labour Party, Bloomsbury Health Branch NALGO, SCPS (Customs & Excise Group, Lon-

don North & West), London City Taxes Branch IRSF, Disabled People Against Apartheid, Rose Bruford College Students Union, Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group, Metropolitan District Council of NALGO

MPs Chris Smith, Stuart Holland, Frank Dobson and Harry Cohen have agreed to place parliamentary questions to the House of Commons concerning our arrests and our subsequent treatment, particularly the photographing, strip search and detention over night.

On Wednesday 9 November at lunchtime we organised a picket of Bow Street Court, in whose adjoining three cells the women were strip searched. The picket was supported by many of the sponsors.

Our future activities include a rally on 23 November and a street meeting in Lewisham on 19 November (see Round-up for details). Please send all donations and requests for speakers, petitions, leaflets etc to c/o BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX.

**Defend the right to demonstrate!
Drop the charges now!**

Ruby Noorani

follows the ideas of General Frank Kitson who was appointed head of the UK Land Forces in June 1982. Kitson sees intelligence-gathering operations as an essential means of building up a picture of a potentially revolutionary opposition in the community - who will then be smashed by the usual police tactics of harassment, beatings and arrests. The police are there for one reason: to oppress the poor and protect the rich.

**No to police spying!
Hands off the youth!**

Chas Millington

● Israel and South Africa: thick as thieves

Israel has recently developed its ties with the puppet regimes of the so-called 'independent homelands'. Following the visit of President Lennox Sebe to Israel a 'Ciskei Trade Mission' has been established between Israel and the Ciskei. Furthermore a contract was secured whereby Israel would supply a number of new aircraft and provide instructors to train pilots in the Ciskei. Israel has also agreed to supply the new arms factory to Dimbaza with sophisticated modern weaponry. Chief Lukas Mangope, President of the Bophuthatswana bantustan, has also recently visited Israel and secured a contract for the construction of housing and the development of a television service for the Bophuthatswana.

● New Prevention of Terrorism Bill

The proposed new Prevention of Terrorism Bill, currently going through the House of Commons, extends the old Prevention of Terrorism Act. No longer will it just be available for use against members and supporters of the Irish liberation movement, but now for use against persons suspected of being concerned in the 'commission, preparation or instigation' of the 'use of violence for political ends' anywhere in the world. In this context the liberation movements ANC and SWAPO have specifically been mentioned.

● Racist trip to Namibia

The South African backed Namibia Information Service last month paid the costs of a trip to Namibia by 3 Conservative MPs and 2 Labour peers. A 'wholly enjoyable experience' in the words of Martin Stevens MP, the delegation leader in which the party's sole concern was 'to improve our knowledge of political and economic conditions in the territory'. The report resulting from the visit however claims that 'apartheid is not a feature of life there' and 'torture is by no means institutionalised'. These statements are lies. The 'homelands' of Namibia are the same system of racial genocide for the purpose of economic subjugation as South Africa's bantustans and there is ample evidence of the torture of political prisoners. The delegation, in the words of Lord Molloy who dissented from the report, having 'not spoken to more than three or four blacks on the whole tour' recommends that South Africa crush SWAPO and remain in occupation of Namibia for the next 10 years.

Britain, a member of the Western 'Contact Group' which has volunteered to help 'guide Namibia to independence', welcomes this kind of 'research'. It provides justification for their collaboration with South Africa and obstructs any move towards real independence for Namibia because it would mean an end to the super-profits drawn by imperialist nations such as Britain from the slaughter of the Namibian people.

Alex

● Koevoet - licence to murder and torture

On 18 November 1982, school-teacher Jona Humukwaya, 33, was dragged from his home in Kavango, Namibia, by members of the South African counter-insurgency unit, the Koevoet. A day later he was dead. At the inquest hearing into his death, the brain haemorrhage and extensive subcutaneous haemorrhage on his back, as well as the severe bruises, abrasions and contusions all over his body, were explained as having happened when Jona Humukwaya 'fell down' the stairs during interrogation, while being held on each arm by policemen. The Koevoet are renowned for the atrocities and torture they commit in their search to root out and destroy SWAPO freedom fighters. They are trained in interrogation and torture.

Often this is done by disguising themselves as SWAPO freedom fighters, and begging villagers for food. Those that show sympathy are murdered, and very often their entire family is butchered as well.

Although the South African inquest judge has ruled that Jona Humukwaya died in detention at the hands of the Koevoet, those responsible will not be identified, or charged with murder.

Nomsa

Ciskei

OPPRESSED RESIST

ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT AGM

The 1983 Anti-Apartheid Movement AGM welcomed a speaker from the UDF in South Africa, Auret van Heerden, who gave a graphic account of the development of the UDF in South Africa and the current events in the Ciskei.

This was the high point of the day otherwise devoted to introspection. The annual report summed up the last year - 'A year later it is not possible to claim that through international action the world community has been able to make a contribution to the overthrow of the apartheid system...' Whilst 1983 in South Africa has been a year of militancy and development - the emergence of the UDF, the sustained struggle of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe, the militancy of the people in the squatter camps, and in the factories, and now in the Ciskei bantustan - 1983 for the AAM in Britain has been a year of retreat.

Whereas in 1982 the AAM was able to build a large militant demonstration, this year the AGM decided that the movement could not build a big demonstration in 1984 - its 25th year of existence. This was a reflection of the weakness of local groups. The arguments of Hackney and City AAM members who argued that a national demonstration would be a focus for local work were countered by statements that the AAM would only be able to mobilise small numbers and that the focus for work should be concentrated in local areas.

The experience of FRFI comrades is the opposite. Support for the liberation struggle in South Africa is readily given if bright and imaginative activity is organised. This support could easily focus around a national demonstration if the AAM local groups went out onto the streets to win that support. Particularly in a period when the Thatcher government is strengthening its ties with apartheid state, a militant stand of opposition to apartheid needs to be made and fresh forces won to the movement.

If this movement is to develop those arrested on Anti-Apartheid activities must be defended. This will become more essential now that the Prevention of Terrorism Act has been strengthened to include 'the use of violence for political ends' 'anywhere in the world'. From the experience of the indiscriminate use of the PTA against the Irish community in Britain, the British state will be able to use the new Act to intimidate people who support the ANC and SWAPO. Mike Terry, National Secretary of the AAM told Fenner Brockway not to sign the petition in support of the 9 people arrested on the protest against the executions of the Moroka 3 - the Trafalgar 9. This will have to change if the AAM is to be able to defend its supporters against arrests in the future.

Following the AAM decision the March 1984 month of action will now consist of fundraising, a lobby of parliament and a national speaking tour. However, perhaps the focus for next year's work will turn out to be the welcome decision to renew the boycott campaign, to isolate the apartheid state.

FRFI is pledged to build the movement against apartheid in support of the liberation struggle in 1984. Let's hope that next year's AGM expresses a more militant spirit and is a meeting which Neil Kinnock, and indeed Labour MPs who stand for election to the AAM National Committee, feel obliged to attend rather than send their apologies.

Caselton gets depressed

In FRFI 32 we reported on the luxurious treatment being meted out to self-confessed South African agent Peter Caselton in Maidstone prison. Following publicity in FRFI and the New Statesman, Caselton was approached by a group of black prisoners. As a result of this approach Caselton resigned his 'blue band' and went back into an ordinary cell. Living in the same conditions as other prisoners so depressed him that he is now back in the hospital wing... as a patient suffering from depression.

Terry O'Halloran

In FRFI 33, we reported that since July, in protest at the steep fare increases, there has been a boycott of the Ciskei Transport Corporation buses in Mdantsane, a black township where a third of the population in the Ciskei bantustan live - 40% of the population is unemployed. In the attempt to crush the boycott the puppet Ciskeian regime headed by President-for-life Lennox Sebe has declared a state of emergency and imposed stringent curfew restrictions. Ciskeian police have shot at and killed many commuters boarding trains to go to work in East London. By the end of August 832 people had been detained, without trial, and trade union activity had been suppressed. The revolutionary South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) has been banned and its leadership detained. Horrific reports are emerging of assault, rape and torture of the detainees.

Yet the bus boycott continues and grows from strength to strength in the face of increasingly barbaric repression. Mdantsane residents estimate that over 90 people have been murdered in the course of the bus boycott.

In October, Nicholas Haysom published a 90 page report in South Africa, giving details of the grotesque treatment suffered by the people in Mdantsane at the hands of the fascist Ciskeian police and army, and particularly from the vigilantes, thugs loyal to the Ciskei National Independence Party of President Lennox Sebe. In particular, the report reveals the use, by the Ciskeian police and vigilantes, of the Siza Dukashe sports stadium in Mdantsane, to detain, assault and systematically torture hundreds of people arrested during the bus boycott. At times up to 80 detainees are held for several days in changing rooms (7m to 8m square) without food and water. There are no toilet facilities and detainees are forced to defecate on the floor. There is no sexual division, no blankets or running water.

Detainees are whipped with sjamboks, and many detainees have given accounts of their horrific torture. Mr Thebankosi Mteni was handcuffed hands to his feet and made to swing for two hours from a rod suspended between two tables. Mr Mbola was handcuffed, suspended from the ceiling and

whipped on his body and feet for an hour. When they had finished he was unable to walk but lay on his stomach, bleeding so profusely that the blood flowed out of his shoes. Detainees have been protesting in Ciskeian jails at the atrocious conditions under which they are being held.

Since the publication of the report the sports stadium is no longer being used; instead detainees have been transferred to an old training school called Hlaziya where the torture and beatings continue.

The Ciskeian police and vigilantes continue to rampage through the streets of Mdantsane - intimidating, assaulting, robbing and arresting people. Their reign of terror has no limit. Taxi and car drivers are stopped and they, together with their passengers, are dragged from their vehicles, whipped with sjamboks and severely beaten up before being forced onto buses. Commuters on their way to and from the railway stations are viciously attacked. Solomon Masangane had both his legs broken, Mr Sunande had his ear ripped off by a rifle butt when he refused to board a bus. The Ciskeian police, whose vans have been unable to enter certain areas, have even taken to chaining children around the vans to prevent them from being pelted with stones.

The boycott of their classes by schoolchildren in Mdantsane, in solidarity with

their parents, has spread to many other black townships. The majority of schools are 90% empty or else are guarded by vigilantes. Unarmed schoolchildren have been shot at, and 16 year old Siza Fuku was shot dead in cold blood while playing football with friends in the streets. Children as young as 11 and 14 years old have been held in the stadium. Many students too have been detained, including over half of the East London branch of the Council of South African Students (COSAS).

SAAWU, now banned in the Ciskei, has been engaged in a bitter fight with the Ciskeian and South African authorities for at least three years over the unionisation of workers. Readers of FRFI will remember the reports of the detentions of Thozamile Gqweta and other SAAWU leaders at the time of the Rowntrees dispute. The harassment of SAAWU has now reached a climax with the banning of the union on the grounds that it has supported the bus boycott. SAAWU has always maintained that its duty as a union is to be involved with issues which affect the community. Now its leaders are detained without trial and Thozamile Gqweta has been forced into hiding.

Most of SAAWU's membership in the Eastern Cape work in East London - just outside the Ciskei border, in 'white' South Africa. Whilst these workers can legally belong to the union at work, when they cross the border at night after work their membership is illegal. Their homes are raided and workers are detained for the possession of a leaflet, membership card or SAAWU T-shirts.

No one should doubt the complicity of the South African state even though the terror is dispensed by the puppet regime. No one should doubt either the role of British companies in East London who employ many SAAWU members. With the help of the terror of the apartheid state, Rowntrees sacked 500 workers in 1981 and has never reinstated

them. Now, alongside other imperialist companies such as Johnson and Johnson, it is doing its bit to crush the bus boycott. These companies have issued warnings that if workers arrive late they will be sacked.

SAAWU, the workers and the community of Mdantsane will not be crushed. News has reached supporters that some of the detainees have been on hunger strike in protest at their detention.

About 15,000 commuters travel from Mdantsane to East London every day. The workers use these journeys to discuss developments, announce meetings and spread news. Freedom songs are sung throughout the journey and trains are stopped in between stations to pick up commuters who are walking rather than travelling on the buses. Anyone suspected of being an agent is thrown off the train immediately. SAAWU has recruited many workers because of its resolute stand on the side of the people. The UDF and eleven other organisations have formed a solidarity committee to aid the struggle.

SACTU has appealed for support for the heroic struggle of the Ciskeian people. You should

- Send a letter of protest to P.W. Botha, Union Buildings, 0001 Pretoria, South Africa calling for the unbanning of SAAWU
- Send a copy of the letter to the South African Embassy, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2
- Send a message of support to SAAWU in East London, P.O. Box 7002, East London, South Africa 5200
- Send a copy of the above correspondence to SACTU London Office, 38 Graham Street, London N1. Further information can be obtained from the London Office.

Ruby Khan

WHITES ONLY REFERENDUM

On 2 November 2 million whites from a total South African population of approximately 30 million voted by referendum for a new constitution. Black people were not allowed to vote; every major black political organisation and leader expressed their opposition to this racist referendum.

The whites voted by 2:1 in favour of Botha's proposal to establish separate parliaments for Indians and so-called Coloured people alongside a whites-only parliament, with a permanent majority and an all powerful white President - the job Botha wants for himself. Alongside this they plan to introduce conscription for Indians and Coloured people: a move opposed by leaders of these communities.

The referendum came as a result of the growing opposition within South Africa and internationally to apartheid. The South Africans are attempting to appease their international critics and in time secure recognition for the bantustans. At the same time they hope to isolate the revolutionary opposition led by the African National Congress (ANC) by dividing the black community and by smashing the Front Line states.

Thus, immediately after the referendum, Botha stated his willingness to sign non-aggression pacts with the Front Line States. It was effectively a public threat that unless they ceased in their support for the ANC and SWAPO he would continue in his policy of invasion and sabotage of their countries. As Botha said:

'I'm speaking from a position of strength... And I hope they accept my good will.'

South Africa has the largest, best-equipped army in Africa. Since independence Angola has experienced constant South African invasion and military occupation, Mozambique has experienced sabotage by the South African armed MNR and bombings of its capital Maputo.

Botha is confident of the overwhelming support of the white community in South Africa for apartheid. The only strong opposition he faced in his referendum came from the extreme right led by Andries Treurnicht. Just as the Paisleyites in the North of Ireland, fearing any reduction of their privileges, fight any British plan which involves more than a small minority in even a pretence of power, so Treurnicht describes a yes vote in the referendum as the beginning of black rule in South Africa. The whites only 'Progressive Federal Party' also opposed the new constitution because they fear the strength of black opposition to the racist regime and the intensification of the armed struggle.

Black organisations and leaders in

South Africa opposed the referendum. The racist regime, fearing the massive popular support of the United Democratic Front (UDF), banned their meetings and arrested and detained their leaders. Even leaders such as Buthelezi who oppose the armed struggle and represent a minority spoke vigorously against the referendum. The new constitution can only lead to increased support amongst the black community for the revolutionary struggle to smash apartheid. On the day of the poll the People's Army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, bombed a

bus depot and police warehouse in Durban following bombings on 1 November of the Johannesburg/Durban railway line, electrical power pylons on 14 October, and the destruction of 11 petrol tankers and storage tanks on 10 October.

In common with the South African people we oppose the racists' schemes and call for increased support for the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe in South Africa and SWAPO and the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia.

Chris Fraser



EDINBURGH 24 HOUR PICKET

Edinburgh's FRFI supporters initiated a very successful 24 hour picket against apartheid in South Africa on 21 and 22 October at the East End of Princes Street. The picket kicked off on the Friday at 8pm with a rally of 40-50 people, some FRFI supporters, EISC members, the Edinburgh Anti-Apartheid group and some CND members who came along for a few hours before going to the march in London. The picket was sponsored by Edinburgh and Dundee FRFI, Edinburgh and Dundee AAM and the Edinburgh University AAM.

Songs were many and chants included 'No aid, no trade, Smash Apartheid Now' and 'Free Nelson Mandela, Victory to the ANC'. The number of participants never dropped below 20 and another enthusiastic rally finished it off on Saturday at 8pm. There was a visitors book which was signed by many and the atmosphere of the picket showed through their comments - 'Workers and oppressed people of the world unite'; 'This is the will of the people Brothers and Sisters'; 'Freedom to all Africans'.
Jude



notes and comments

● Boys in blue

From the blue rinses of the Tory Party, right down to their darling Bobbies, the bootboys in blue, what else can we expect but stinking hypocrisy. Nottinghamshire CID had organised a private party at which vice squad detectives, chief inspectors in Special Branch and local Army men participated in a sordid evening of sexual frolics with a hired stripper. A whip-round produced £20, about the weekly dole money, to entice the stripper to live things up while their police colleagues were out arresting kerb-crawlers in the city itself. Amongst those arrested: a barrister, a doctor, a managing director and an ex-councillor. As the magistrate said, 'the police are trying to clean up the streets of our city', of course he meant only the streets. The rich and their lackeys can always afford their private parties.

● Toff gets tough

Charles James Blandford, unemployed of Westminster, was lucky enough to escape with a fine of only £100 for punching a policeman. Charles James Blandford is also known amongst certain circles as Marquess of Blandford, son of the Duke of Marlborough and heir to a handsome fortune. With this new intelligence, the small penalty incurred by this unemployed sonofanobleman is not quite so much of a surprise.

● Colonial hankerings

Judge Gibbens, a sprightly 71 years of age, must hanker after a nice colonial post in the Northern Ireland Diplock Courts where he will not be forced to fuss with that irritating democratic institution, the jury.

When twelve good men and women true acquitted a 19 year old defendant of burglary at an Old Bailey trial, the judge was so outraged he harangued the jury on their responsibility to convict when he told them to. 'That is one of the most astonishing verdicts I have ever heard' he ranted. 'I think you have forgotten the oath you took to give a true verdict according to the evidence.' He then told the astonished jurors not to 'dare calling the police' if they ever discovered a burglar in their homes.

Judge Gibbens has a reputation as a 'hanging judge'. In 1980 he gaol'd a witness for the night after she slurred her words and swayed whilst giving evidence. Gibbens accused her of being drunk.

● Vice Squad vices

I sometimes wonder if a change of name for the Vice Squad would break them from the habit of committing the crime themselves. Manchester's certainly seems to need a change, or even a *short sharp shock* might do it. For the time being anyway the news on the grapevine is that Manchester Vice Squad has been taken out of commission. There are reports that the whole squad has been disbanded following the discovery of four inspectors and three sergeants drinking after hours in a local pub. The 'alleged offences' were uncovered in a raid on the pub, which had been kept under surveillance for some time by the regional police internal complaints department.

SHOOT TO KILL IS LEGAL – OFFICIAL

From 14 January, the day that armed police officers shot and nearly killed Stephen Waldorf in a busy London street, the fate of David Martin was sealed. Martin had carried out a number of robberies and greatly annoyed the police by persistently escaping from police and prison custody. Police hatred of him was fuelled to the point of frenzy by the fact that a police officer received minor gun wounds during one of Martin's robberies. Hence their stake-out of Martin's girlfriend's flat; their following of her when she, Waldorf and another man went out in a car; the insane violence with which the police tried to kill Waldorf having mistaken him for Martin.

Martin's trial had to end before the trial of the police accused of attempting to murder Waldorf could begin. And it was necessary that Martin should be painted as a wicked, perverted and dangerous character. This the police and prosecution did, ably backed by Fleet Street's usual intellectual offerings about Martin's transvestism and frilly underwear. For the crime of failing to be caught and shot by the police – for this was clearly his major misdeed, Martin got 25 years. 25 years for Grievous Bodily Harm, burglary and possession of guns is exceptionally savage even by British barbaric standards.

With Martin set up and safely locked away, the trial of the police began the next day. But what a contrast! The prosecution was run by Attorney General Sir Michael Havers, and how understanding he was. Yes, he agreed there was a 'remarkable similarity' between Martin and Waldorf. And how little were the police pressed and probed. Soon the charge of attempted murder against one was dropped. Finally all were agreed – anyone can make mistakes. The Judge called it 'a horrifying mistake'. He then clearly told the jury:

'... the last thing you should do is think that someone has to be made an example of.'

The jury not surprisingly acquitted the police.

Yet what a story had been revealed in court. A man who the police want to catch is thought to be in a car. DC Finch then follows the car and decides it is him, fires six shots into the car, is joined by two more police who fire another 8 shots. Waldorf, gravely injured, is dragged from the car, called a 'cocksucker', pistol whipped until his skull is fractured and then brutally handcuffed. The police openly admit they were out to kill their quarry and their acquittal licences future action of this kind by the police. Just as shoot-to-kill is policy in the Six Counties of Ireland, so under Sir Kenneth Newman it has become so in Britain.

Let the last word go to David Martin. Whilst on the run he spotted two burly figures outside his house.

'They were either villains or police officers – it comes to the same thing in the end.'

Maxine Williams

SELLING THE BODIES OF THE OPPRESSED

The rapid descent into raw savagery of American and British imperialism has reached a new depth. A company, US-based International Kidney Exchange has now been set up by a 'Dr' Jacobs. Observing on TV the poverty-stricken millions of Bangladesh, he 'saw the waste of their organs' and hit upon a new perversity of imperialist exploitation – the export of body organs, taken from live people in oppressed nations, and sold to people in the USA. With 'agents' in Latin America and Asia, he hopes to plunder the very bodies of the oppressed to sell to Americans whose wealth, also plundered from the oppressed one way or another, allows them to buy a second lease of life. Each donor will be paid \$5,000 to have one of their kidneys removed, a fee charged to the recipient who will pay 'Dr' Jacobs an extra \$5,000 for 'expenses'. At least 1 in 2,000 donors do not survive this major operation, even in the well-fed healthy USA, let alone Bangladesh. Many more will face premature death if their remaining kidney should fail, as is far more likely when you only have one kidney. This Frankenstein is a true imperialist: 'God gave us two kidneys and we (he really means 'they' – the oppressed) need only one'. The American Way of dealing with a shortage of kidneys for transplant – in the USA – is to pay donors, forced

through poverty to sell one of their organs. What made him stop at the thought of buying only one kidney?

The sale of blood is an even clearer symbolic example of imperialist society in all its parasitic depravity. In oppressed countries throughout the world, many destitute people live off the money from selling their blood. They tramp across the city from hospital to hospital and their blood gets thinner and thinner, victims of a society impoverished by imperialism. Meanwhile in Britain the government has been temporarily embarrassed by the contradiction between its forcible privatisation of parts of the NHS on the one hand and the totally free use by private medicine of (amongst many other services) the blood donated freely by the public to the National Blood Transfusion Service. The government has decided to charge private firms like BUPA 'handling costs' of up to £20 per bottle.

Renal dialysis and kidney transplant are now fairly successful methods of maintaining and even curing people suffering from kidney failure. However, no sooner has this been developed by NHS resources, than it is being severely restricted by the cuts – at the very moment when it could benefit significant numbers of the working class. Many kidney machines are lying idle and transplant programmes restricted for lack of staff. A doctor at Guy's Hospital in south London is threatening to refuse to sign the death certificates of those who die because of these cuts, following the deaths of three patients whom his unit was forced to turn away. The coroner will have to invent a cause for these deaths by neglect. Once again the private sector will cater for the needs of the rich while the poor die in the NHS queues.

Tony Sheridan

POA – FASCIST ORGANISATION

The Prison Officers Association, which together with the Police Federation represents right wing reaction in Britain has clearly shown its absolute contempt for democratic rights. The July issue of the POA Magazine contains the following comments on the Albany prison protest:

'Once again the mindless thugs that we contain in our prisons have seen fit to protest in the only way they know how – destruction... Our MUFTI squads were efficiency itself... The thugs who escaped onto the roof were left there to starve, and quite rightly so. This time there were no 'bargaining' talks and I am sure we would have been more than happy to have left them up there to rot – thereby doing a favour to the normal decent people throughout the country. Their demands fell on deaf ears and here I give credit to the News of the World... In their editorial they summed up the demands made by those criminals on the roof in two words – 'GET STUFFED'. Our sentiments exactly.'

What more can be expected from the real thugs of the prison system who force prisoners to run gauntlets of screws armed with batons, who beat and torture people to death, and who encourage racism in British prisons.

Nigel Doyle

MORE ABOUT THE SPY FLIGHTS

Very little has been heard recently from the imperialists about the Korean airliner, shot down by the Soviet Union – and little wonder, for the facts which are emerging tell a very different story from imperialism's little fairy tales. Not only did the flight coincide with the orbits of a US Ferret-D electronic spy satellite (see FRF133), in addition, four so-called KH ('keyhole') photographic satellites were in orbit at the same time. Further, the US Rhyolite satellite system, designed to intercept telemetry from Soviet missiles, was also active. This ties in with details of Japanese radar intercepts which show that the airliner executed course adjustments over Sakhalin which took it over Soviet missile sites. All these facts have been kept out of the newspapers of course.

Anyone who believes that the imperialists would never conduct espionage in this way should look back on history. On at least one known occasion the CIA was pre-

pared to use the US President as cover for its aerial espionage operations. In 1960, when US President Eisenhower was preparing to visit the USSR, spying equipment was fitted to his plane. According to *Newsweek* (2 April 1979) 'CIA technicians concealed high-resolution cameras in the belly of the presidential jet and rigged a control system that would enable the co-pilot to snap pictures while ostensibly operating the plane's fresh air valve and magnetic compass.'

Eisenhower's trip was called off following the shooting down on 1 May 1960 of a U2 spy plane on a flight over the Soviet Union from Pakistan to Norway. The CIA fitted the plane with demolition charges and issued pilot Gary Powers with cyanide poison in the hope of safeguarding its secrets. Unfortunately for the US, Powers decided not to blow himself to bits, thinking perhaps of his then-colossal \$30,000 salary waiting at home. Before the imperialists discovered this, State Department spokesman Lincoln White declared on 6 May: 'There was absolutely no – NO – deliberate intention to violate the Soviet airspace and there never has been'. In fact Eisenhower had signed the order authorising the flight. On 31 May 1960, in secret testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, CIA Director Allen Dulles revealed that a 'civilian plane' had been shot down over the Caucasus. He was in fact referring to an EC130 electronic intelligence aircraft shot down over Armenia, inside the Soviet Union, on 2 September 1958.

These were not isolated incidents, though they are the few that have come to light. They are part of an uninterrupted history of spy flights against the Soviet Union begun during the Second World War. In August 1944 Major General William Donovan, chief of the OSS (forerunner of the CIA) had planned operations 'Casey Jones' and 'Ground Hog'. According to General Eisenhower's intelligence chief, General Edwin L Sibert, Casey Jones 'was a project undertaken jointly with the British to use the post-war confusion to get photo coverage of all central and western Europe, Scandinavia and North Africa'. While the Red Army was fighting – and dying – to crush fascist Germany and end the war, sixteen specially converted British and American bomber squadrons photographed 2,000,000 square miles of eastern Europe throughout 1945 in preparation for World War 3. Naturally all this was carried out with the full knowledge and approval of the wretched 1945 Labour government, whose descendants today pontificate so loudly about supposed 'Soviet terrorism'.

Steve Palmer

HYPOCRISY RULES AT TORY CONFERENCE

The usual flag-waving and Rule-Britannia-singing at this year's Tory Conference – intended by Thatcher to mark the climax of her election victory – was rudely shattered by the revelations about Cecil Parkinson's affair with his secretary.

The morals of a millionaire would not be worth a comment except for the fact that Cecil Parkinson was also the Chairman of the Tory Party which constantly preaches about the virtues of family life and the sanctity of the family. In the end, Thatcher could no longer risk the further exposure of their hypocrisy on this question. For as she is well aware, while the Tories are voicing their cosy sentiments about the family, human relationships in working class families are being put under more and more intolerable pressure by long-term unemployment, poverty and cuts in services.

Indeed, the conference itself was a veritable monument to hypocrisy. It can be summed up by a paragraph from Thatcher's closing speech:

'We are a mature nation... (ie we are an old imperialist power...) which through centuries of trial, sorrow and achievement (ie through centuries of butchery, murder and oppression of entire peoples...) has developed a common view of life. There are things for which we as a people have stood for for centuries: the will and capacity to defend our way of life... (ie the willingness to bring about 1,000 deaths in a colonial war in the Falklands, the willingness to carry on a war against the Irish people...), the rule of law... (the crushing of any resistance from the oppressed by more and bigger prisons, more police armed with more techniques of repression...), the belief in private property and home ownership... (ie

through the sale of council houses and a virtual halt in council house building denying millions of people the right to a reasonable home...), the protection of the elderly and the sick... (ie massive cuts in health and services which are bringing suffering and death especially to the old...), the limitation of government... (ie the abolition of councils like the GLC and South Yorkshire simply because Thatcher does not like their minimal concessions to the working class such as cheap fares...), and the freedom of the individual... (ie a massive attack on trade union rights, the further increase of police powers over the individual, the building of yet more prisons for the oppressed...)' (Brackets are ours – FRFI)

Parkinson had to go because his affair threatened, if only in a minor way, to break through the fabric of lies and deceit which the Tories offer up day in, day out, as they continue with their vicious anti-working class policies.

Olivia Adamson

THE RICH GET RICHER

As the crisis deepens, and living standards, welfare, unemployment and supplementary benefit, health and education services are cut back, certain sections are profiting and living in unprecedented wealth.

Recently published statistics show that the richest 5 per cent of the population has increased its share of the national wealth from 43 to 45 per cent – at the expense of the working class. While the share of the richest 1 per cent remains the same at 23 per cent of wealth, the richest 25 per cent of the population now owns 84 per cent of all wealth in Britain: this is an increase of 3 per cent over the previous year.

These figures reverse a long term trend. For the first time since 1966 the British ruling class and upper middle classes have seen their proportion of the total of all wealth rise instead of fall. The figures reveal the extent and privilege of the middle class which has grown up in Britain alongside the rise of imperialist super-profits. That is, British imperialism has created a layer consisting of no less than one fifth of the population, below the ruling class, who own well over one third of national wealth. This sections subsists happily on what is left of the profits of imperialism, whilst the remaining 75 per cent – the vast majority – must live on only 16 per cent of national wealth.

William Grey

BT ENGINEERS FIGHT FOR JOBS

For the last two months members of the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) have been fighting against an estimated 45,000 redundancies in the state-owned British Telecom (BT). The government plans to sell off parts of BT to private firms. For 2 months the workers resisted attacks from BT management, Mercury Communications and the lying bourgeois press.

Despite BT suspension of more than 3,000 POEU members, the Union continued a campaign of blacking all work on Mercury telecommunications equipment, refusing to connect it to the BT network. Mercury immediately took the POEU to the High Court under Tebbit's 1982 Employment Act to get an injunction preventing the union from blacking Mercury. Surprisingly the judge ruled that the POEU's industrial action was a legitimate 'trade dispute' in defence of jobs and not a politically motivated action. This was an illusory victory. On 8 November, the Court of Appeal reversed the judge's ruling. The BT workers action was illegal under the Employment Act and unless it was ended the POEU could face fines of £100,000 or more.

The POEU Executive and its conference faced a clear choice: either bow before a ruling class law and risk losing nearly 45,000 jobs or in the interests of the working class challenge Tebbit's law and the courts and government which will implement and execute it. The Executive decided immediately by a majority vote to comply with the Court of Appeal ruling. Despite the risk of massive unemployment it was not going to endanger the POEU's financial assets by incurring fines in a fight to defend jobs. The TUC also made clear its subservience to the ruling class, declaring that it would not support a breach of the law.

Gerald Johnson

IMPERIALISTS BOMBED IN BEIRUT

The US government is considering reprisals for the 23 October bombings in Beirut which devastated the US and French military headquarters, killing 230 American and 58 French soldiers. More US warships and aircraft carriers are sailing to Beirut to reinforce their armada already anchored off the city's shores. Whilst the bombings were a heavy political blow to US and French imperialism, they did not change the overwhelming imperialist military superiority in the area. Reagan is using the 23 October events as a pretext to further increase US military power in the region in order to violently destroy any possible revolutionary opposition to imperialist plots for the Middle East.



This arrogant display of military might runs parallel with a display of hypocrisy which only imperialist politicians are capable of. A chorus of denunciation and invective echoed from the USA, France, Italy and Britain following the bombings. Reagan described those responsible as 'vicious, cowardly and ruthless' adding that they were 'international thugs and criminals'. Yet the bombings were well-planned military operations against military personnel and installations and no one else. The victims were all soldiers who had played a direct part in sustaining President Gemayel's fascist regime against challenges from Lebanese progressive and democratic forces. In contrast to these selective military actions, just a month before, US and French warships and planes were unleashing massive bom-

bardments on Druse villages in the Shouf mountains. Two days after 23 October, 16,000 US marines were mobilised to invade tiny Grenada where US planes bombed a mental hospital killing 47 patients. The US refuses to reveal the Grenadan death toll which Grenadians put at 1,500, the vast majority being civilians. US imperialism has supported and continues to support regimes engaged in genocidal murder of tens of thousands of people: Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Iran under the Shah, Brazil, Israel, South Africa.

The actions of the oppressed fighting foreign imperialist powers on their land are neither cowardly nor vicious. Ruthless they may be, but it is imperialism with all its plunder and barbarism, ready to murder and maim in defence of its stolen wealth, which teaches ruthless-

ness to the oppressed when they fight the monster. The international thugs and criminals are US, French and British imperialist armed forces who patrol the world as if it were their property. The international thugs and criminals are the US, French, Italian and British 'peace-keepers' in Lebanon who, with their mighty armies and navy, are prepared to pound villages and people into the ground in defence of a fascist regime.

But the bombings in Beirut and the subsequent one in Israel-occupied Tyre in South Lebanon, which killed 30 Israeli soldiers, taught imperialism a good lesson. While it can maim and murder, imperialism can never destroy that spirit and will among the oppressed determined to fight to the death in the cause of freedom, justice and democracy.

Eddie Abrahams

CHILE: the oppressed carry on the struggle

Four further days of protest in October against the imperialist-backed Pinochet regime has seen a split in the opposition forces.

The Democratic Alliance, which is made up of bourgeois parties, refused to support 3 days of protest called by the Popular Democratic Movement (MPD) for 11-13 October. The Democratic Alliance has felt threatened by the ever-growing strength of the oppressed and the violent demonstrations against Pinochet which have resulted in over 50 deaths from May to September. The Alliance has held negotiations with Pinochet's regime hoping to bring in a civilian government which favours themselves at the expense of the oppressed. The plans for a peaceful 'March for Democracy' were dropped when it was banned by Pinochet. In the face of Chile's political crisis the Alliance is clearly wavering.

The initiative for future protests and demonstrations now lies squarely with the working class and the oppressed of Chile, at present united under the Popular Democratic Movement. On 12 October the MPD organised a huge demonstration of 50,000 people in Santiago, which was charged by the police using tear-gas and shot guns. In the shanty towns the oppressed again threw up barricades of burning tyres and fought armed police. During the 72 hour protest an electricity sub-station and a town-

hall were bombed, and a policeman shot dead; six people were murdered by the police.

The ever-increasing determination of the oppressed to overthrow the military junta has, apart from discrediting the Democratic Alliance, also led to splits in the junta itself. One general said that the change to democracy must be brought forward 4 years; another general even argued the need to talk to Marxists!

Three days of successful protests meant the passing of a law which makes it an offence to call an unauthorised demonstration. Those found guilty face an indefinite prison sentence or internal exile. This law has allowed the Democratic Alliance an excuse for its increasingly ineffectual opposition. On Thursday 27 October 10,000 people attended a meeting addressed by the Christian Democrat leader Mr Gabriel Valdés. The following day 150 people were arrested, and scores injured with gunshot and bullet wounds, as the oppressed alongside students fought the police with stones and petrol bombs in spite of the ban.

The Pinochet regime is unreformable and the oppressed have no choice but to use whatever means they can to bring it down and rid Chile of imperialist domination.

Nigel Doyle

Palestinian revolution faces dangerous crisis

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the entire Palestinian revolutionary movement is in the throes of the most severe and profound crisis. In Tripoli, north Lebanon, and the nearby Palestinian refugee camps of Nahr al-Bared and Baddawi, opposing factions of the PLO (manipulated, aided and abetted by the region's reactionary Arab regimes) are engaged in civil war. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and thousands wounded as a result of this inter-Palestinian conflict. This struggle, taking place in isolation from the main force of the Palestinian revolution – the masses in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Israel itself – threatens the very existence of the PLO as the unified revolutionary leadership of the Palestinian masses.

The crisis afflicting the Palestinian revolution stems directly from the defeat of the PLO in the summer of 1982. Then, before the immensely superior Israeli military machine, the PLO was forced to evacuate Beirut – its last

independent base in the Arab world. PLO forces became hostage to reactionary Arab regimes who have never ceased their efforts to isolate it from the Palestinian and Arab masses and destroy it. PLO fighters were forced to disperse ever further away from the Palestinian masses – to reactionary and repressive Syria, Jordan and other Arab states. Divisions within the PLO, which had existed for many years, rapidly came to a head. In May 1983 Al Fatah, the largest PLO organisation, split. Abu Musa led a revolt against the Arafat leadership charging it with compromise and reliance upon imperialism and Arab reaction, with preparing to abandon the armed struggle in favour of futile diplomatic and political negotiations with enemies of the Palestinian revolution. Abu Musa also condemned the corruption and venality which had developed in the PLO and reasserted the fundamental principles of the Palestinian revolution – no compromise with imperialism or Arab reaction and a continuation of the armed struggle.

But the PLO was not to be allowed to resolve its differences independently and without the interference of reactionary Arab regimes each intent on using the Palestinian revolution for its own ends. Jordan sought to entice Arafat totally into the embrace of imperialism. Syria, meanwhile, which had complete command of supplies and equipment to PLO forces in Syrian occupied Lebanon, set out to destroy Arafat, subjugate the PLO and use it as a card in its reactionary deals with imperialism. An internal PLO conflict which began peacefully has gradually, as a result of Syrian manipulation of anti-Arafat forces, led to open civil war being conducted at the dictate of the

Syrian regime.

The PLO defeat in Beirut laid it open to this manipulation. But this was only the latest episode in a constant history of brutal and counter-revolutionary attacks against the Palestinian revolution by reactionary Arab regimes. In 1970, King Hussein of Jordan launched war against PLO forces killing thousands of Palestinians and expelling the PLO from Jordan. Black September 1970 will not be forgotten by the Palestinian masses. In 1976, President Assad of Syria sent 30,000 troops to intervene in the Lebanese civil war. The targets of Syrian tanks and artillery were the Palestinian and Lebanese leftist fighters on the verge of victory against the fascist Phalange. After saving the fascist Syrian troops stood idly by as the Phalangists massacred 3,000 Palestinians in Tal al-Za'tar. In almost every Arab country – in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Jordan – PLO militants have been imprisoned or expelled and the PLO has been denied the right to operate free from interference. In 1982 as the Israeli army waged its savage war against PLO and Lebanese leftist forces not a single Arab regime came to their aid. These regimes' declarations of support for the PLO and financial assistance to it had only one purpose – to incorporate the PLO into the reactionary world of Arab diplomacy. Thus they hoped to tame it and prevent it playing its galvanising revolutionary role amongst the Palestinians and also among the Arab masses heaving beneath the repression of reactionary regimes.

Imperialism, Zionism and Arab reaction have always sought to prevent the unification of the PLO with the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories and those living in the Arab diaspora. Nevertheless the Palestinian masses will never surrender to imperialism and reaction and they will overcome the current severe crisis to once more challenge Zionism and imperialism.

Revolutionaries in Britain have only one duty in relation to current developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian revolution. And that is to fight against any imperialist intervention in the area. In particular they must fight for the immediate withdrawal of all imperialist armed forces from Lebanon.

Eddie Abrahams

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would have to return to court on another day. Sarah demanded that her case be heard that day – also her right – she was told to come back on 1 December and replied that it was inconvenient and that she would stay in court until her case was heard. The police were ordered to remove her. Immediately women in the court blockaded the exit. The police were kicking the women as they were dragged out and pushed and shoved them downstairs to the cells. 20 minutes later the women were then given the humiliating 'choice' of either having apologise to the court or spend 14 days inside for contempt.

It appears that the state is now using the same tactics that they use in Northern Ireland on demonstrators on mainland Britain quite openly. How long must it be until people realise that the gross lack of political rights in Ulster will soon exist here. It is no longer a question of just demonstrating against the state's policies – be they nuclear or otherwise – it is a question of fighting for the right to demonstrate. Police – and therefore the government's – harassment at Greenham, at the pickets outside the US consulate in Edinburgh in protest against the Grenadan intervention, and at other demonstrations which oppose either Britain's or our 'ally' the United States' policies, makes it obvious that the state is determined to silence any opposition to their fascist ideology. Now is not the time to be silent – now is the time to shout out. Nicky Wood

CRUISE PROTEST MOUNTS

As the arrival of cruise missiles draws closer the peace movement has escalated its protests. The 'constitutional' wing of the peace campaign has pinned its hopes on mass demonstrations and an alliance with the Labour Party. All have proved fruitless. The more than a quarter of a million people who marched on 22 October, heard Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, reject unilateral disarmament. The Labour Party when in government has always supported nuclear arms. Once in opposition it squeaks a little against nuclear war, but has not got a shred of the moral conviction or anti-imperialist sentiment required to oppose the imperialist war drive.

Many have come to see that the path to peace is blocked by an imperialist ruling class which ruthlessly pursues its interests by violent means and pays scant regard to the wishes of the mass of the people. This was shown most clearly by Heseltine's statement that protesters might be shot if they got too close to the missiles.

Despite this the direct action wing of the peace movement, led by the Greenham women's example, has grown in strength and support. In their latest demonstration they cut down a major part of the fence at Greenham and were pitted against the police, army and courts. They suffered 187 arrests and

numerous injuries. On 9 November 24 hour peace camps were organised outside most of the 102 US Army bases in Britain, to coincide with an attempt to use US courts to block the deployment of cruise.

As the demonstrators have braved cold weather and state attacks, a pathetic argument has been going on in the House of Commons and the media about Britain's right to possess a dual key to the missiles. Labour politicians have raved about the erosion of Britain's sovereignty and its 'colonial' status. Those who have protested for long months outside Greenham are aware that it is British police, soldiers and courts that have attacked them. And would any serious person sleep more soundly knowing that Thatcher (or Kinnock) possessed a key to cruise? What a choice – one set of bloodthirsty imperialists or...another set! British and US imperialism are united in their war drive by bonds of fear and hatred. Fear of liberation movements and socialism, hatred of democracy and the oppressed. The future for the peace movement lies in uniting the struggle for peace with the struggle of millions throughout the world against imperialism – both its US and British varieties.

Maxine Williams

RAGUA

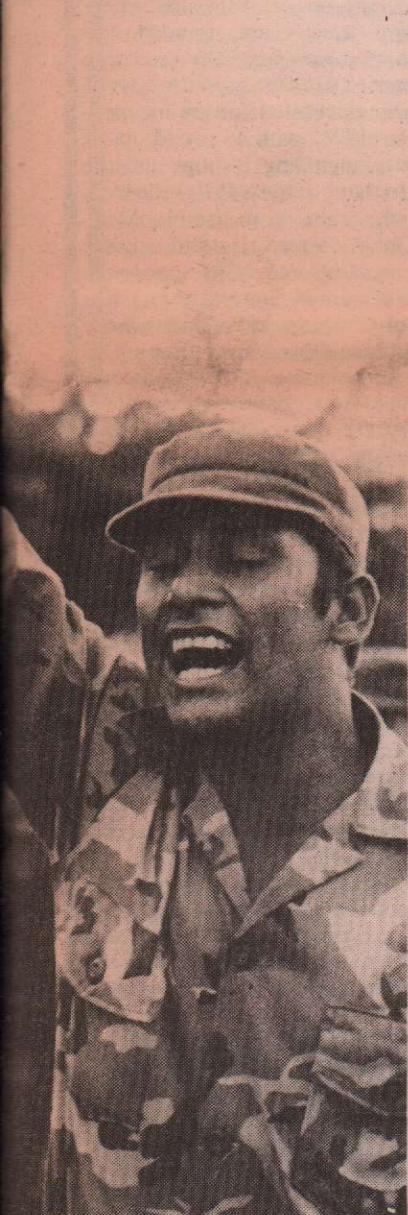
to the

people

... hours after the US invasion of ... monstrated in solidarity with the ... agua.

... account of the revolutionary ... determined to try and destroy. The ... der who visited Nicaragua as part ... records the huge strides forward ... since the victorious revolution in ... myths and lies the imperialists ... evolution.

... article shows, are armed and ready ... of the slogans on the 25 October ... ee Marines will die!



PHOTO

...alism! extends its revolu- ... ple and government of Nic- ... is a criminal accomplice to ... s aggression against the ... stands firmly with the San- ... has marked huge steps ... masses. The Nicaraguan ... determined resistance to ... spiration to the oppressed ... against the racist and ... r slogans are:
... Off Nicaragua!
... inista Revolution!
... perialism!

—PC de N Partido Comunista de Nicaragua.
—MAP-ML Movimiento de Accion Popular Marxista Leninista.

Each of these has freely accessible headquarters, its own periodical publication and huge roadside advertisements.

Of these there are obvious rightwing and leftwing groupings and contrary to the Western Press statements they all have freedom of speech as does the major opposition newspaper 'La Prensa'. This newspaper undertook to destabilise the revolutionary Junta on a number of occasions, for example it published rumours of a sugar shortage causing panic buying and so engendering a shortage. It also spread false information concerning military activities. For such reasons it is now censored in economic and military issues, but is still published and with its anti-government criticisms.

Conversations were held by us not only with the revolutionary youth and revolutionary movements in general — most Nicaraguans were involved in one way or another in the anti-dictatorship activities — but also with those who did not support the Junta. Such people felt no fear in talking to us and in expressing clearly counter revolutionary ideas. There are no penalties for criticism, although there are clear limits on anti-revolutionary activity.

Where we most noticed a concentration of reactionary people was in the Administration of the State farm in which we worked. Other internationalists on other farms noted the same. The Junta has had to maintain the technical and administrative staff that remained in Nicaragua due to a general lack of a revolutionary equivalent due to the Somocist education system. Those people cannot act against the revolution, however they do not do all they could to advance it. Such people, mainly bourgeois or petty bourgeois are those who maintain posters of the Pope and papal propaganda after the hostile speeches given by the Vatican's head of State in his recent visit to Nicaragua.

AGRICULTURAL REFORM

In their agricultural programme the Junta have had to bear in mind a serious constraint: the lack of trained technicians with revolutionary convictions. As mentioned the great majority of skilled agricultural engineers, managers, scientists, etc, have counter revolutionary ideas but the Junta has had to maintain them and until a new revolutionary generation can be trained the situation will remain somewhat compromised.

Not all Nicaraguan land passed into the hands of the State. Immediately after the revolution the Sandinistas expropriated the land of Somoza and all those who fled the country, in this manner gaining 20% of the national territory. Such estates were usually devoted to coffee, sugarcane, tobacco or rice in plantation form and were therefore turned over to become State farms and were not broken down for peasant cultivation.

Therefore the best uncultivated and badly managed land that was then expropriated was divided amongst landless peasants in the second phase of the agrarian reform. Over a hundred thousand peasants have benefited since the revolution. Many benefits are also given to such peasants: cheap credits, subsidies on inputs, advantageous maize prices, and general infrastructure in rural communities, for example.

Another 15-20% of the agricultural territory is in the hands of cooperative farms which also benefit in a number of ways, for example with cheap credits and debt annulment.

On the land of the large landowners the Junta has the right to decide which crops should be grown and if there is no cooperation the land can be expropriated. Products must be sold at government prices and in this way the Junta prevents such landowners from accumulating capital for their own use.

RELIGION

Most Nicaraguans are highly religious Catholics, but there is a clear division between the popular church and the institutionalised pro-Rome clergy. This division was enhanced during the Pope's recent visit.

Christians took part in the revolution not as Christians per se but because they believed in the need for social justice, and Nicaraguans generally find no problem in reconciling Christianity and their revolution — graffiti on church doors amply demonstrating this 'Entre religion y revolucion no hay contradiccion' — 'There is no contradiction between religion and revolution'.

Not only is there no contradiction but neither is there the alleged persecution of religious people or the clergy. We spoke to a group of Nuns from the Spanish State who admitted having more facilities to give lessons now and religion could be taught, although not during normal school hours.

The upper echelons of the church hierarchy are those distanced from the majority of Nicaraguans. They are actively supported by the bourgeoisie and counter revolutionaries and have for example, in conjunction with rightwing political parties, issued posters, the message of which being, for example, 'The Pope or the Sandinistas' in attempts to confuse and divide the Nicaraguan people.

The Nicaraguans awaited the Pope's visit with enthusiasm. Posters and banners were put up everywhere and the government laid on transport for all those who wanted to see and hear him. The disillusionment and anger they felt when the Pope refused to mention the heroes and martyrs, ignored the past sufferings and recent advances of the people and spoke in clearly anti-revolutionary terms was total. Now the only posters of the Pope to be found are those in the doors and windows of bourgeois dwellings. For all revolutionaries the Pope had revealed the true reactionary colours of today's Vatican State.

THE PRISON SYSTEM

Since the revolution the Junta has attempted to develop a system of open prisons for both common and political prisoners. In such prisons work is made available for a normal salary (thus not depriving families of their income), prisoners take part in the planning of their work and daily routine and family visits are regularly made possible. The director of the system is currently a nun from the United States, who has lived in Nicaragua for 20 years. There currently exist roughly 1000 common prisoners and 2400 ex National Guards, more and more of these now being moved to open prisons as resources become available.

The Junta has maintained a 'generous' policy as they describe it towards ex National Guards. With the revolution the Junta rounded up all those who had not escaped and trials were held. Roughly three categories can be defined:

— a group of perhaps a hundred children were detained who had been used as torturers — one had had the job of gouging out prisoners' eyes, for example. These children were immediately allocated to a rehabilitation centre where they were shown simple jobs, games caring for one another, the importance of mutual respect, etc, and have now nearly all been reintegrated into their families.

— guards who were found to be ignorant concerning their activities with no context within which to place the level of their cruelty. Many of these, after careful and caring education, have now been given jobs and have become part of the community once again.

— hardened and knowing torturers and assassins for whom long prison terms have been given but who are treated with respect and generosity in attempts to reintegrate them eventually into Nicaraguan society. Many such prisoners are those now benefitting under the open prison system.

Many people both inside and outside Nicaragua criticise the Junta saying such a policy is too generous and perhaps highly dangerous. However the Junta bases its policy on the need to always improve over former societies and whereas they were killed and tortured by the Somocistas, today they provide justice and amnesty.

HUMAN RIGHTS

As in all countries there are human rights abuses in Nicaragua. As is not the case in all other countries however, there exists a National Human Rights Commission which looks into all cases denounced and acts upon its findings. Their advice is passed to the Government for implementation. We discussed their work with 6 of its members, including a US nun and an entrepreneur. They revealed that they had had to deal with various cases since the Revolution, for example in one in which an ex National Guard had been maltreated by a prison warden. The Commission made its report upon which the Junta acted: the warden lost his job and was sent to prison.

There exists however a second Human Rights group in Nicaragua that works with US financial and political backing, and which receives much coverage in the Western press. It is not an official body although it claims to be such in its reports. The work of the real Commission is complicated by this second group whose false accusations concerning human rights abuses it must spend valuable time and monetary resources resolving. This US backed group was responsible for the recent misinformation concerning the Miskitoes of Eastern Nicaragua.

The Miskitoes inhabit the eastern Atlantic coast of Nicaragua and the banks of the Cocoa River which separates Nicaragua from Honduran territory. Ignored by former Nicaraguan regimes for all but tax purposes the Contras acting from Honduras have now taken advantage of the Miskitoes lack of education to misinform them concerning the revolution and have kidnapped many to later persuade them to join the Contras. They end up in concentration camps in Honduran territory and if they refuse to fight are killed as was denounced by the People's Permanent Tribunal which has also emphasised the risk such abductions are causing for the viability of the Miskito ethnic group.

With this in mind and in an effort to reduce the isolation felt by the Miskitoes the Junta set about providing settlements for Miskitoes at some distance from the Honduran border for all those wishing to move to safer territory, over 100 million cordobas (3.5 million US dollars) being used to provide secure communities with decent infrastructure.

The US backed human rights group picked on this to demonstrate forced removals of the population and even assassinations, destruction of communities etc. Plenty of information has emerged to show the false nature of all their accusations which had been cheerfully printed by the imperialist press, the absurdity of their claims being shown, for example, by the production of people who they claimed to have been killed by the Sandinistas.

The Junta has also issued a general amnesty for those Miskitoes who left for Honduras and have since managed to return.

THE CONTRAS

The role of Eden Pastora (Comandante Zero) is clear for all revolutionary Nicaraguans: Traitor. Having once been confused by his activities, they are not letting themselves be deceived again.

A petty bourgeois, with land in Costa Rica, Pastora left at one stage the Frente Sandinista during the pre-revolutionary stages. As the movement gained strength he rejoined. The Comandantes planned the Assault of the National Palace in the later revolutionary stages in which they released many prisoners and gained much support for the Frente. Pastora was invited to head the assault group being recognised as a good fighter if not so good a politician in the broader sense of the word. The Comandantes insisted that the assault be carried out as they had planned it even though Pastora wished to change it. He carried out the original plan and through its enormous success gained his popularity amongst Nicaraguans. However after the revolution triumphed he deserted Nicaragua claiming he had not been given the post he deserved in the Junta. He claimed he was going to Guatemala to fight with the guerrillas there, so retaining his support amongst many Nicaraguans until he turned up on their southern border as head of an anti-Sandinista war unit. A second return to Nicaragua is now impossible for Pastora, at least in terms of benefitting from the kind of broad based mass support given to the Sandinistas.

More physical and financial damage is inflicted on Nicaragua by the Honduran and US backed Contras operating along the northern Nicaraguan border. As opposed to the picture given in the European press, only certain zones of Nicaragua were dangerous, at least until recently, in that with scattered communities and little infrastructure the Contras could easily penetrate northern and central areas, attack, sabotage, kidnap, etc and retreat to the mountainous border or into the selva in the east. During our stay we were never affected by Contra activity although, for example, 2 US made mortars and various tinfuls of detonators were found some 5 miles from the farm in which we were working.

Attacks concentrate on the export crops of coffee and tobacco, on new projects such as schools, health centres, etc and the Contras always torture, kidnap and kill on their raids. Those kidnapped are forced into the Contras or killed, the lucky ones escaping. During our stay a busload of peasants was ambushed all but a young baby being killed, this exposing the hypocrisy of those western newspapers that try to argue that the Contras are only using those methods previously employed by the Sandinistas.

The Nicaraguans are preparing themselves for a US or US backed intervention which they regard as a 'possibility'. The cost of defending themselves is seen not only in terms of the price of each weapon and truck used, but also in terms of the bad conditions the people have to continue to support whilst the imperialist aggression diverts vital resources away from more needy sectors. The Nicaraguans are clear however — everywhere you see the slogan 'No pasaran!' — 'They will not pass' and they are carrying out their 4th Anniversary slogan of 'All arms to the people'. They know the imperialists will have to kill more than 75% of the population to defeat the revolution.

Helen

continued from page 1

President Fidel Castro called 'a big revolution in a small island'. Free education and health care for all were introduced, and with their slogans 'Let those who toil hold the reins', 'Fight Unemployment Through Revolution' and 'Idle lands for Idle hands', unemployment was swiftly reduced and almost eradicated. In four years of construction Grenada's economy had grown by 15% and was accelerating, reaching the unrivalled 5.5% growth last year, giving the people a 7% improvement in living standards in a single year!

Throughout the neo-colonial Caribbean the working people are being made to pay for the capitalist crisis in the imperialist heartlands: production is falling and unemployment growing. Half Jamaica's youth are unemployed, welfare services are being slashed on IMF orders as puppet governments bleed their people to make profits for the transnational banks: Jamaica's debt of \$2.5bn is over 40% of its total annual production and income.

In a capitalist and neo-colonial world where working people achieve only partial and temporary victories, the sight of Grenada advancing and securing its gains gave the Caribbean oppressed encouragement and heart to struggle. Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, was cheered and loved by the masses wherever he went among the Caribbean islands. Imperialism was tormented. As the cheers grew louder, the struggles more resolute and the puppets quaked, so imperialism amplified its dirty propaganda: photos of airports, obstacle courses, 'sophisticated-barracks', 'submarine bases' (though of course lacking any visible submarine) were brandished before the capitalist press and TV who faithfully reproduced them.

THE ATTACK PREPARED

Immediately upon the Grenadan revolution in 1979 the British Labour Party government formed the joint Eastern Caribbean Defence Force, elements of which trailed the US invasion force. Based in Barbados it is a policing outfit with a backbone of Royal Navy frigates, and was designed to check the spread of the mood of liberation from Grenada to other islands. The US State Department had plans for a blockade and invasion of Grenada within a week of the revolution. While the British government refused to fulfill aid commitments to Grenada, British banks gave loans to neighbouring client regimes to stockpile weapons with. US military aid in the region has multiplied sixteen fold since the 1979 Grenadan and Nicaraguan revolutions. Dummy-run invasions of Grenada were mounted by US forces, as part of exercises that included British warships: the most notorious being code-named Amber and the Amberdines held in 1981 and including a population round-up and liquidation programme. US Rear Admiral McKenzie commented that Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada were 'practically one country' and 'a political-military problem'. Earlier this year ten British vessels headed by HMS Invincible joined the US fleet in 'Operation Readex'. The senior US commanding officer confirmed that British and US military experts were jointly studying last year's invasion of the Malvinas/Falklands. The final sequence of the assault on Grenada chosen by the US, from covert amphibious landings, to naval and aerial bombardment, a ringed naval exclusion zone, combined with strict censorship, shows the lessons learned.

POUNCING UPON TRAGEDY

The internal conflict within the PRG and the tragic death of Maurice Bishop and five other NJM leaders on 19 October gave imperialism the chance it had waited for. Lies, rumours and distortions were barked by the mongrel media as they were fed out by US military intelligence units and reactionary Caribbean circles.

On 20 October the Cuban government declared:

'No doctrine, no principle or position held up as revolutionary, and no internal division justified atrocious proceedings like the physical elimination of Bishop and the outstanding group of honest and worthy leaders killed yesterday. The circumstances of the death of Bishop and his comrades must be clarified, and if they were executed in cold blood the guilty ones must receive exemplary punishment.

Imperialism will now try to make use of this tragedy and the grave errors committed by the Grenadan revolutionaries to eliminate the revolutionary process in Grenada and subject it once again to imperialist and neo-colonial domination. Only a miracle of commonsense, equanimity and wisdom by the Grenadan revolutionaries and severe action by the world progressive movement could still solve the process.'

Fidel Castro called for three days of Cuban national mourning for Comrade Bishop. He hoped that revolutionaries all over the world would

'reflect deeply, and that the concept prevail that no crime must be committed in the name of revolution and freedom.'

Cuban doctors, teachers, technicians, construction workers and troops were told to stay at their tasks in Grenada.

THE BATTLE

On 22 October the US fleet en route for Lebanon diverted to Grenada. The following day HMS Antrim sailed from the coast of Columbia to anchor in Grenadan waters. At 5.30am Tuesday 25 October US 'Operation Urgent Fury' was under way: Radio Free Grenada announced 'Grenada is under attack by foreign troops.'

The world's mightiest imperialist power, geared to spend \$1bn a day on weapons, had mobilised 16,000 troops of the US Rapid Deployment Force against a People's Revolutionary Army of 1,500 soldiers, a community militia and 784 Cuban workers, all comparatively lightly armed. Peoples whose forefathers fought guns and canon with their bare hands and machetes, until they finally broke asunder the chains of slavery, were about to write a new page in the history of undaunted courage of the Caribbean people.

Imperialism will now try to make use of this tragedy and the grave errors committed by the Grenadan revolutionaries to eliminate the revolutionary process in Grenada and subject it once again to imperialist and neo-colonial domination. Only a miracle of commonsense, equanimity and wisdom by the Grenada revolutionaries and severe action by the world progressive movement could still solve the process.

Cuban government, 20 October 1983, 5 days before the US invasion

With the bloated confidence of the duped and backed by two aircraft carriers with over 100 fighter-bombers, the advance guard of US troops charged into Grenada as if they were riding onto a film set. Battleships pounded towns and villages, fighters bombed, helicopter gunships strafed, and heavy artillery with tanks pounded all before them. But the Yankees were stunned by the ferocity with which the Grenadan and Cuban revolutionaries fought. Three days after the initial assault one Grenadan concluded 'Only the planes can defeat us. We are holding off the troops. We are small but we are dangerous', as fighting continued in and around the capital, St Georges. A French TV crew recorded a US marine reeling from the battle who recalled the 1968 Tet-offensive against US occupation forces in Vietnam. US military command panicked and called in more troops from Barbados bringing the total to over 6,000 in Grenada. On such a small island they accidentally shot each other! US Rear Admiral Metcalfe confessed they 'had to be brought in because the fierceness of the resistance was greater than we expected.' US casualty figures are delib-

GRENADA

erately falsified: some reports put the total at 150 dead and wounded from the preliminary deployment on Grenada. 12-20 US helicopters were reported destroyed. In those areas eventually secured by US forces guerrilla tactics were employed. A dismayed marine whose Hollywood-diet had ill prepared him for the greeting that people really gave Yankee invaders sighed, 'They smile at us in the daytime, and come out and shoot at us at night.'

As the police contingent from Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua, St Vincent, St Lucia, Dominica, St Kitts-Nevis, was installed in the Yankee rear, the Grenadan and Cuban fighters held the monstrous US moloch in the grip of war for seven days.

YANKEE MURDERERS

Such heroic resistance brings its own casualties, but the Grenadan people suffered far more, like their Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and sisters a year before them, from indiscriminate imperialist killing. On the second day of bombing Grenada's mental hospital was hit killing 47 patients and nurses. The US said that they did not know it was there, but Grenada has need of only one such hospital and it has been there for as long as any Grenadan can remember. After three days of battle the Grenadan ambassador to the United Nations announced 700 Grenadan dead. Latest Grenadan reports say there are 1,500 dead, the equivalent of over 2m US citizens murdered, and twice the proportion of population killed than were slain by the Nazi blitz in Britain!

Families have followed the stench of corpses looking for their dead. The US military authorities have ordered them not to recover the bodies claiming they are a health hazard. This is an attempt to prevent an accurate body count.

Hundreds of NJM activists and supporters have been hunted down, stopped at roadblocks, transferred to prison camps where there are reports of torture being used upon them.

CUBA: GLORIOUS AND DEFIANT

In the years of struggle to come, the selfless sacrifice given by the Cuban workers, fighting alongside the Grenadan patriots to defend the achievements of the revolution, will be recorded and remembered as an unsurpassable example of international solidarity. Cubans were invited into Grenada to help build, the Yankees stormed in to destroy. As the US fleet loomed upon Grenada the Cuban government instructed its workers at the airfield and across the island that they 'should defend themselves if attacked by invading forces... energetically, just as if they were in Cuba.'

US imperialism deliberately attacked the Cuban construction workers. These outstanding representatives of the Cuban revolution reported back to Fidel Castro 'Commander-in-Chief, we will carry out your orders and we will not surrender. Patria o muerte!' Lightly armed, with guns and ammunition issued to them by the Grenadan government, the Cuban workers responded to the attack: CBS news reported that 1,000 US marines had 'been stopped

cold' by the Cuban resistance. For over 24 hours they held the combined US land, sea and air forces at bay. Fidel Castro paid homage:

'they have been waging a battle for the peoples of the small countries of the world and for all the peoples of the Third World against brutal imperialist attacks.'

Having seen Cubans help Angola halt the march of fascist apartheid in Southern Africa, having felt the cold of Cuba steel and been scorched by the fire of the

before the invasion, assured by the Grenadan army that they were in no danger, and told they could leave if they wished to do so. In fact, the only casualties sustained by the medical students were the result of firing by US troops. The Chancellor of the medical college said in New York 'the President's information is very wrong... They were in no real danger whatsoever.'

Then, the US and its partners were going to 'restore democracy, law and order'. Democracy as in Jamaica where the Council for Human Rights reported

Throughout the neo-colonial Caribbean the working people are being made to pay for the capitalist crisis in the imperialist heartlands: production is falling and unemployment growing. Half Jamaica's youth are unemployed: welfare services are being slashed on IMF orders as puppet governments bleed their people to make profits for the transnational banks: Jamaica's debt of \$2.5 billion is over 40% of its total annual production and income.

Cuban revolution in this, the first direct combat between US forces and Cuban revolutionaries, Reagan raved deliriously, 'there are Cubans in Nicaragua, Cubans in Venezuela, Cubans in Columbia', and no doubt Cubans coming out of the wallpaper!

POCKET FULL OF LIES

Ronald Reagan has made a living out of reciting lines, but now this sometime-actor heads the US forces, and plays the swaggering oaf paralytic with power. Mesmerised by the lies that are fed him, Reagan scorns the truth with irritation. However, the US ruling class, like its British educators, is a calculating, ruthless pursuer of its own interests. Since 1775 they have unleashed more than 200 wars and major military clashes. Today, while they rage about so-called 'Soviet-Cuban expansionism' they take it as a natural right to have 1,500 overseas bases, and to deploy their armed forces on no fewer than 286 occasions in pursuit of foreign policy objectives since the 1946 Japanese surrender. Deception and systematic lies are an integral part of imperialism's military operations. Military intelligence officers design them, and orchestrate their delivery to, and appearance in, the media.

While the US press has lamely complained about the strict censorship imposed on it, a torrent of lies has been pumped out of the White House, US command in Grenada, and across bourgeois TVs, radios and press. First of all the US were rushing to the rescue of medical students 'trapped on the island'. These medical students had been freely visited by US and British diplomats

113 people shot dead in the first quarter of this year, eight gunned down by police in a single week whose explanation was 'they had communist literature upon them'.

Democracy as in Dominica where opposition leaders are branded and tried as 'Libyan agents'. Restoring democracy to Grenada as in the days of Gairy who celebrated formal independence, in 1974, with a round-up of opponents, including Bishop, and the putting to flame of the NJM's solicitor's house; who went on to use his 'Mongoose Gang' to terrorise and murder striking workers and NJM supporters and who dispensed 'law and order' with the aid of Chilean army officers whose contribution to peace was training in torture techniques. 'The Mongoose Gang' freed from prison are now, under the British Governor General, resuming their previous role.

Finally, the US concluded that it went to Grenada because of 'the Cubans'. Who could forget Reagan's infamous 'Cubans': first there were 1,000 of them, then they took away 200, but still there were 1,000 left!? You would laugh if they were not human lives Reagan was fumblingly attempting to count with! And, of course, there were the endless 'pockets of resistance' that were continuously being 'mopped-up', day after day. No sooner was the island 'pacified' and the 'fighting over' than there were more 'pockets of resistance'. Big pockets for such a small island!

From the arms caches of 'sophisticated weapons' which US journalist Loren Jenkins recognised as nineteenth century colts, to the mass graves that keep

continued on page 11



disappearing the falsehoods are endless. Suffice it to say that one White House press secretary, employed to issue Presidential statements, felt so ridiculed (by his efforts to keep a straight face?) that he resigned.

THE BRITISH LION ROARS

Thatcher and Howe stated that the US invasion had 'freed' Grenada, Howe adding that 'the alternative was anarchy'. Britain refused to support the UN motion condemning the invasion and calling for the withdrawal of US troops. Sir Paul Scoon, Governor General and senior British representative in Grenada, supported the US attack and made a call for the immediate surrender of Grenadan resistance to the US occupation forces.

Thatcher's public argument with Reagan was a caution to US imperialism not to meddle too deeply in territories which British imperialism considers its own domain—the Commonwealth. Their dispute was nothing but the wrangling of pirates over who should possess the booty. It must be remembered that British troops have repeatedly been used against strikes and uprisings in the post-1945 Caribbean: in Belize, Guyana, Bahamas, Jamaica, Bermuda and Antigua. A joint operation was conducted with US forces against a Trinidadian insurrection in 1970. Britain has given permission to the US to instal bases on Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and other islands. The stooge Caribbean policing outfit now in Grenada was British police trained.

However, it is the Labour Party which best reveals the true character of British imperialism's indignation at US 'unilateral action'. With wounded pride shadow foreign secretary Dennis Healey roared of 'a quite unpardonable humiliation of an ally'. He went on to accuse Thatcher of having 'failed in your duty to the House, failed in your duty to the British people, failed in your duty to the Commonwealth, and failed in your duty to the Palace.' That is, she failed to ensure the predominance of British capitalists' interests in the Commonwealth Caribbean. So much for the exemplary international solidarity shown the Grenadan people by the British Labour Party!

'HOLY' BRITISH LEFT

If ever there was a crime in the eyes of the British left it is to stop talking about history and theory and begin making it. Everywhere they seek to explain the agonies heaped upon the oppressed by imperialism as being a consequence of what they imagine to be the inadequacies of the revolutionary leadership of the oppressed. Their racist, chauvinist 'holier-than-thou' attitude shone like a halo above their response to the Grenada crisis and invasion. Thus the SWP:

'The great tragedy in Grenada is that four years after a small group of idealistic young left wingers seized power they realised they hadn't fundamentally changed their poor island.'

A theme shamelessly developed by their 'theoretician' and dunce Alex Callinicos 'Class exploitation survives... Only the exploiters have changed... The highest ideals end up in dust, ashes — and blood. And the old imperialist powers are only too ready... to take advantage of the situation for their own ends.'

Socialist Action adopted a more subtle, priestly approach to the 'there you are, I told you so' sermon.

'Despite the paraphernalia of alleged participation democracy in Grenada, in reality the revolution has been led by a small group of leaders of the NJM. This movement has never had a congress, it does not possess the structures of internal democracy in which political disputes are settled... The Grenada form of mass consultation... in no way amounted to mass participation in decision making.'

So there you have it: Grenadan people, NJM, the British left are decided, 'you changed nothing'; not the economy you built, not the political life you thrived on. 'You brought the imperialist house down on your own head.' But we can

leave it to the RCP, gazing at Grenada across galaxies of theoretical enlightenment, to sum it all up:

'the NJM never moved away from its middle class base and its all-class approach. Its aim was to strengthen the existing Grenadan economy — a capitalist economy totally dominated by imperialism... Grenada was a relatively weak Third World country trying to achieve a modest degree of capitalist development...'

Can you hear them in the Pentagon: 'O my gawd! You know what we've done, we've blown away a little gem of an example of how capitalism can work!'

NO BRITISH PLANS FOR GRENADA!

These baseless slanders of the Grenadan revolution, combined with enthusiastic and open indulgence in uninformed speculation about the disputes within the NJM, do nothing to aid building solidarity with the Grenadan people, but conform entirely with the plans of British imperialism to reassert its domination over the island. Throughout the prelude to the US invasion British Mobile Land Forces in the Caribbean were put on 'alert' and held at this station for days. Today, the British state is assessing plans to replace US troops with a Commonwealth 'peace keeping force'. History abounds with examples of her British forces to keep 'the peace'. In 1969 British troops were sent by the Labour government into the Six Counties of Ireland under the guise of being 'peace-keepers'. Understandably, having faced days of savage attacks by armed Loyalists, some in the nationalist communities felt initial relief. However, as Sean Mac Stiofain, former Provisional IRA Chief-of-Staff, pointed out, they 'would quickly realise that a colonial power does not send its army to hurry up social reforms.'

For 14 years British 'peace-keeping' troops have tortured and killed Irish nationalists fighting for self-determination and democracy. Last year, in Beirut, 'peace-keepers' were drafted in after the Sabra and Chatila massacres. This autumn, these same British troops scout the streets of Beirut and have pinpointed targets for US naval batteries. In Britain, the self-same police that train the Caribbean police murderers — the British police — uphold the 'peace, law and order' of the ruling class by attacking black and unemployed youths

and arresting those who struggle against racism and imperialism.

GRENADA ON THE FRONT LINE

In the days of slavery the British would demonstrate the power of the British Empire by clamping rebellious Grenadan slaves in iron cages that prevented all movement, hanging them high in the trees above their brothers and sisters to die of thirst and despair. By invading Grenada imperialism has sought to cow the Caribbean. Yet the indomitable courage of the Grenadan and Cuban fighters rings out across the Caribbean, in the words of one of Grenada's great teachers, William Galway Donovan who learnt democracy had a fighting spirit from his Irish Fenian father and black Grenadan mother, 'Better a naked freeman than a gilded slave'. The gilded slaves Seaga of Jamaica, Adams of Barbados, Williams of Dominica, Scoon and the others who blessed the Yankee guns, are now stripped bare for all the Caribbean masses to see as their hands, dripping with the blood of the Grenadan and Cuban martyrs, reach out for their dollars' reward, while the fallen have covered themselves in glory.

For its exercise in brutality the US ruling class is in delight with itself, but thousands have demonstrated across the USA in support of Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua. Today, in the USA imperialism is generating the forces that will link arms with the global struggle against imperialism: 6 in 10 black youths are unemployed; a third of all black and Hispanic Americans live in dire poverty; a government health report states that US non-whites 'exhibit the low birthweight problems of residents of Third World countries', a black baby is twice as likely to die in its first year as a white baby. One third of the US army are black! Let the imperialist strategists reflect on Ho Chi Minh's words spoken in 1951, 25 years before the Vietnamese people finally beat imperialism:

'Today it is a case of the grasshopper pitted against the elephant. But tomorrow the elephant will have its guts ripped out...'

Hands Off Grenada. No British Plans For Grenada. US Troops Out Self Determination for the Grenadan People
Trevor Rayne

SANDINISTA INTERVIEW

'now we are fighting imperialism'

Fernando Saavedra is a member of Sandinista Defence Committees and its representative in Europe. He is also the representative of the Nicaraguan Committee for Peace.

Whilst on a European Tour he gave a short interview in Edinburgh to Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! on 19 October 1983, before the US invasion of Grenada.

FRFI Daniel Ortega stated at the UN General Assembly that US imperialism had 'declared war on the people of Nicaragua'. Could you say more about this?

FS The US aggression against Nicaragua is reaching a high point. The US fleet surrounds both borders of Nicaragua. US imperialism is pressuring and stimulating aggression against Nicaragua through the counter revolutionaries. We say we are suffering an American intervention; indirectly through Honduras and the Honduran army, and through the Contras. The Contras are also operating from Costa Rica with the help of the government there.

We are trying to stop direct aggression by the US — brought about by a war between Honduras-backed US troops against the Sandinistas. Recently ministers from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador met, with Panama present as observer, to discuss the reactivation of a treaty of the armies of Central America (excluding Nicaragua) to attack Nicaragua under the guise of combatting 'communist forces'.

The Zionist regime of Israel is going to build an armaments factory in Guatemala with the object of making armaments for the Central American armies. The US is behind this. Yes we do believe the US will intervene.

FRFI What support is there for the US-backed counter revolutionaries in Nicaragua?

FS The counter revolutionaries have no support from the people. The proof of

this is that they have not established themselves anywhere.

FRFI Great damage is however being done to the Nicaraguan economy by the raids of these US-backed counter revolutionaries — for example the attack on the oil refinery. How will the people respond to this?

FS Such attacks like that on the oil refinery affect the material economy directly. The shortage of petrol stops the use of agricultural machinery and transport. A 'war economy' is being established. This means implementing measures that will use the natural resources of the country to be able to give people minimal means of food and basics.

The country is not being defeated although we suffer such hard blows. This is because the people support the Nicaraguan government and the measures it is taking to organise the people to resist. We are capable of resisting the sabotage and defending ourselves.

FRFI As you know in August, Edinburgh FRFI organised pickets on the US consulate opposing US imperialism's attack on Nicaragua. What are you asking people in Britain to do to support your revolution?

FS The people of Nicaragua need support. The same support as British people gave them when at war with Somoza. In fact more support. For then we were fighting a dictatorship, now we are fighting imperialism. It is vital to explain to the people what is happening in Central America. We need material support, clothes, technical and financial aid and teams of people to help reconstruction in Nicaragua. It is important to demonstrate to the Nicaraguan people that they are not alone.

YANKEES OUT!

In an inspiring act of solidarity with the people of Grenada, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador launched a military offensive on Sunday 30 October code-named 'Yankees out of Grenada and Central America'. Within two days, 1,000 strong guerilla formations captured two towns close to the capital San Salvador, meeting virtually no resistance from the demoralised government forces.

These are only the latest in a series of humiliating blows delivered by the FMLN to the US trained government army since the mighty 3 September 'Independence, Freedom and Democracy for El Salvador' offensive. To date over 1,000 government troops have been put out of action and ten towns overrun. The FMLN have also captured vast quantities of weapons including M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns, 90mm canons, M-79 grenade launchers, RPG-2 rocket launchers, trucks and radio equipment. With such an array of US-made weapons, the FMLN hardly needs the Cuban and Soviet arms that the State Department claims are sustaining its fighting capacity! In over 74 major battles, the FMLN has routed the elite US-trained Atlacatl and Cobra battalions and captured the latter's commander. While the government forces are demoralised and in disarray, those of the FMLN operate freely in two thirds of the country.

The 3 September offensive was a stunning surprise to US military advisors who, over the summer, were

claiming that the FMLN was suffering significant losses in the face of a re-invigorated and increasingly efficient Salvadorean army. In a communiqué launching the offensive, the FMLN explained its military 'inactivity' over the July/August period:

'About two months ago, the forces of the FMLN started a general pullback... to readjust its forces... During this period the FMLN has multiplied its forces, fire power and the quality of its forces.'

So that nobody will be fooled and the army and US advisors will know who is winning the war, the FMLN announces that its forces have started a nationwide military campaign.'

The latest revolutionary offensive is a serious blow to imperialist strategy in El Salvador. It has put the military advantage decisively in the hands of the FMLN and revealed the gross ineffectiveness of the Salvadorean army. The FMLN's blows are doubly serious as they combine with the re-emergence of active working class opposition in San

Salvador which has become a concentration camp for the working class. In addition, splits and divisions within government circles are intensifying.

Faced with imperialist double-dealing and butchery, the FMLN intends to intensify its revolutionary war. Despite US and Salvadorean government claims that they want a negotiated political solution to the war, both have withdrawn from discussion with the FMLN, and Jeanne Kirkpatrick, US representative at the UN has made clear her government's intention to militarily crush the Salvadorean revolution. While the US speaks of 'peaceful solutions', it continues to pump arms and money into El Salvador equipping and financing the stepped up assassination campaigns of fascist death squads which have recently claimed the lives of scores of trade union, peasant, student and church leaders, adding to the 45,000 already butchered by the regime. Within this reign of terror, the social and economic conditions of El Salvador's workers and peasants continue to deteriorate. Recent reports show that infant mortality now stands at 180 per 1,000 live births, that one third of the country's population is clinically anaemic and that 80% of children under 5 suffer severe malnutrition.

When US imperialism invaded Grenada in the name of 'democracy' and the 'fight against communism', the FMLN



knew exactly what this meant: imperialist counter-revolution and terror in defence of its vast wealth built on the poverty and suffering of million. In demonstrating its solidarity with Grenada and continuing its own revolutionary war, the FMLN has signalled to imperialism that the oppressed of the world stand united against imperialist 'democracy' which is no more than a euphemism for exploitation, plunder and barbarism.

Eddie Abrahams

BOOKS

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE AND COVERT ACTION

Jonathan Bloch and Patrick Fitzgerald. Junction Books. £5.95 paperback, 1983

Philip Agee, ex-CIA agent, writes in his introduction:

'It is a tale of terror, murder, bribery, cheating, lying and torture which have been practised in varying combinations from Malaya in the early 1950s to Ireland in the 1980s. In between, as colony after colony became independent, the British security services were there trying to install local regimes that would protect the interests of British companies, often in tandem with the CIA under the banner of the "crusade against communism".'

Agee himself fell victim to the British government, when in 1976 after exposing imperialist plots against the Manley government in Jamaica, his deportation from Britain was ordered by the then Labour Home Secretary Merlyn Rees. The grounds given were 'the interests of national security'. As this well-researched book goes on to show, British 'national security' means the protection of imperialist economic, military and political interests against threats from the oppressed and exploited in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Ireland and Britain itself.

The British state has built a secret intelligence and military apparatus the size of which is staggering. For example the Government Communications Headquarters in Cheltenham monitors and intercepts and decodes radio signals from all over the world - a major source of military and intelligence information. Its computer division alone has the electricity requirement of a medium-sized town. In addition there is MI5 for internal intelligence purposes and MI6 for secret political operations and overseas spying. MI6 has spent much of its existence trying to foster counter-revolution in the socialist countries. After 1917 it poured money and men into the Soviet Union in support of the reactionary White armies. In the forties and fifties Cold War MI6 was busy parachuting men into Albania and placing agents in Hungary and Czechoslovakia etc. Its successes in that period were limited by the presence of Kim Philby and his fellow pro-Soviets in the highest echelons of the British secret services.

MI6 operations elsewhere have been more successful. In 1953 they, along with the CIA, plotted a coup against the Mossadeq government in Iran which had dared to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The Shah was restored and thousands tortured and killed as a direct result. MI6 today has a 'Special Political Action' department to organise such coups and to influence elections abroad. The British ruling class regards the world as its backyard and the people of oppressed nations as trespassers in it!

Where the exposure of direct or undercover British operations would prove embarrassing the British government uses mercenary forces, largely ex-SAS and other such killers. These forces are given secret government assistance but can be disowned if caught. Thus in 1976 an ex-Para, John Banks, was used to recruit 120 mercenaries to go to Angola and fight with the imperialist and South African backed FNLA. Many were captured and their trial exposed the fact that John Banks had close connections with the Special Branch. The passage of the 120 out of Britain was eased at every stage by government connivance. Hence 11 of them did not even have passports or were on bail awaiting trial but they got through Airport procedures without hindrance. This same John Banks was, in 1977, instrumental in framing Irish republicans. As a result of this mercenary's activities, a Republican called John Higgins was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Adventurers, mercenaries and thugs are often recruited by MI6. The Littlejohns were recruited to make links with Republicans in Ireland and carry out actions to discredit and frame them. Eventually they got too greedy and were caught robbing one bank too many. Gaoled in the 26 Counties, they were released on 'humanitarian grounds' long before their

WHITE LAW

Paul Gordon. Pluto Press 159pp £3.95 paperback, 1983.

'... two youths were arrested at Oxford Circus tube station and charged with 'sus'. A woman standing next to them told the police she had not seen the woman from whose handbag they were supposed to have tried to steal, and she denied that the behaviour of the youths had been suspicious. The magistrate interrupted the police officer giving this evidence. 'I hope you told her to get out of the way and mind her own business.' The officer replied that he had done so and the magistrate replied, 'Quite right. I don't approve of that kind of person'. The youths were convicted.'

A survey done in Pentonville Prison in the early 1960s showed the proportion of black people imprisoned to be 4.4%. By 1981 this had risen to 17% in prisons over all - with the proportion being 36% among younger prisoners. By 1982, the Director General of Prisons admitted that the proportion of black people in Ashford Remand Centre was 50%.

By using such examples and figures, Paul Gordon in his book *White Law*, sets out not only to expose the inherent racism of the British state but also at the same time to show the myth of police 'community relations' policy for what it is: a cover up for the real policing policy of criminalising black people, especially the youth, through its system of racist laws, police, courts and prisons.

While there is not a lot in this book that is new, especially for readers of FRFI which has reported extensively on all major anti-racist struggles for the last

sentences were complete. Another typical recruit was Howard Marks, a professional drug dealer recruited to find information about IRA arms sources. In a mercenary category of their own come many British journalists. It will not surprise FRFI readers to discover that many bourgeois journalists are paid hirelings of MI6. One Editor is quoted saying he thinks that over half of his paper's foreign correspondents are on the MI6 payroll. So much for the 'free press'.

The British state's expertise is sought by repressive regimes throughout the world. The British army has trained many of the world's torturers. Its speciality is, however, psych-ops, a strategy aimed at crushing revolutionary movements. It aims to undermine and discredit the revolutionary movement using counter gangs, informers, propaganda and intelligence. The USA even sought British advice on this for its war in Vietnam. These are the methods in which Kitson and Newman (now respectively head of the UK army Land Forces and the London police) are experts. Both learned and perfected the technique in Ireland. The book shows how these methods are used in Ireland. The British set up a special propaganda unit to feed false stories to the press. One was that an 8 year old girl had been used by the IRA to plant bombs. ITN duly reported this total fabrication. The head of this propaganda unit, Colin Wallace, was a typical imperialist agent. He is now serving 10 years for manslaughter. Another interesting note is that telephone tapping became so widespread that, for example, nobody could get a new phone in Andersonstown because tapping had overloaded the circuits. The IRA used their own tapping techniques to strike back at the British army. Indeed, every method used by the imperialists, secret or otherwise, has been countered by the resistance of the nationalist population. Little is said of this in the book and indeed the authors' understanding of the Irish struggle is incorrect. They believe that Britain wants to re-unify Ireland. Such a political error, however, does not make this book valueless. It has a wealth of information for anti-imperialists to use. It shows clearly and starkly that British imperialism will use the most ruthless, violent and cunning methods to protect its interests.

Maxine Williams



4 years, Paul Gordon's book is useful because it brings together a mass of material on immigration legislation, police raids and attacks on black people, racist attacks and court and prison racism from the late 60s right up to the present day.

In his long chapter 'Police against black people' Paul Gordon cites, as well as such massive police operations as Swamp 81 and Southall 1979, the way in which the police turned the Notting Hill Carnival from a black social event into a major police assault against black people. After police failed to ban the Carnival in 1976 they sent 1,500 police. By 1982 the number of police deployed was over 11,000.

Gordon also shows how immigration raids are used to launch terror against black people - for example the arrest in May 1980 of 37 people at a London cash-and-carry. Police attacks on black people's meeting places have been persistent. In 1972-77 police visited the Mangrove restaurant in Notting Hill approximately 49 times. In July 1977, 50 police raided it and the owner and 5 others were arrested. Only 2 minor charges resulted. On 24 December 1981

50 members of the Metropolitan Police Immediate Response Unit equipped with riot shields and flame proof overalls attacked the Mangrove again. This time there was only one arrest. In October 1974 over 100 police armed with riot shields and flame proof overalls raided the Carib youth club in Cricklewood in London. All those arrested were acquitted. On bonfire night in Chapeltown, Leeds 1975, police provocation ended with 24 arrests - 21 were acquitted.

In addition Paul Gordon deals extensively with instances of the refusal of the police to do anything about racist attacks on black people, and contrasts this reluctance with their deliberate and vicious use of the willing British media to orchestrate hysteria and lies about black people and street crime. He shows how this hysteria is used to cover up further repression of black youth in an attempt to frighten them off the streets after the Uprisings in 1981. His final warning is that racism is 'increasingly the means by which authoritarian measures of state control can be made with popular support'.
Olivia Adamson

THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICA

Mai Palmberg (editor) Zed Press 286pp £5.95

This book is written by the Swedish solidarity movement for Southern Africa and is designed to give a general introduction to the struggle for the liberation of Africa. The book is most useful as an introductory history rather than a political analysis of the relationship between the imperialist nations and the oppressed nations of Africa.

The first three chapters deal with the colonisation of Africa, the struggle for nationalism and the emergence of neo-colonialism. These are followed by descriptions of the liberation struggles in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. In each country we see a familiar pattern: the development of a nationalist movement of black intellectuals into a mass political movement. The suppression of this movement by force and the subsequent establishment of an armed guerilla struggle (ie as in Namibia and South Africa today). Alongside this are the strategies of the imperialists designed to deny the African people self-determination and continue their profiteering through the oppression of the black people: the political harassment, detention and murder of popular leaders (eg Amilcar Cabral and Eduardo Mondlane), the arming and financing of counter-revolutionary movements (eg UNITA in Angola), down to direct armed intervention (eg the Portuguese Army in Mozambique).

The book is designed for use in schools and study circles and thus is illustrated with drawings, photographs and maps throughout, although there is no index or bibliography, reading lists are included at the end of each chapter with a set of suggested questions for discussion.

If you can afford it, the outline history presented in this book is useful for all those involved in the anti-imperialist movement in this country.
Chris Fraser

ANGOLA IN THE FRONTLINE

Michael Wolfers and Jane Bergerol. Zed Press 238pp £5.95

This book contains a wealth of material, facts, figures and dates on the history of Angola, the long arduous struggle of the People's Movement for Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and of the economic and political problems of consolidating liberation and the building of a socialist society.

Despite containing a great deal of detail, it certainly cannot be classed as any sort of academic textbook for 'serious' readers. It is very much a lively, committed and inspiring record of the struggle of a people to free themselves from colonial oppression and imperialism and the building of a new socialist state without exploitation and suffering.

The first chapters of the book deal with the victory of the MPLA in November 1975 over imperialist intervention and their puppet movements, UNITA and FNLA, inside Angola. The imperialists viewed the emergence of an independent, socialist Angola with the same fear as they viewed the emergence of the young Soviet Republic in 1917, and the MPLA had to deal with much the same line-up of reactionary forces: Portuguese fascist troops and the mighty South African Army supplied with NATO and British weapons.

The myth of massive Soviet and Cuban aid to the MPLA before 1975 is neatly exploded by the CIA's man in Angola, Stockwell, who admits that such claims were all propaganda designed to justify the US-backed South African invasion of that year. Given equal weaponry, supplied at the last minute by the Red Army and the support and training of Cuban troops, things were evened up between the MPLA and the racists' army and they were driven out in March 1976.

The battle for the People's Republic of Angola was to secure the material basis for the fulfillment of the Angolan people's needs - the construction of a socialist economy. After liberation Angola faced what every newly liberated country has had to face and overcome: the legacy of the liberation war and the legacy of colonialism. Over \$1,200 million worth of

bridges, roads and schools, hospitals and oil depots had been lost. The exodus of white settlers created further chaos and hardship as they stole records, plans and factory machinery, and sabotaged equipment. For example, two thirds of Angolan trucks had gone to the West and only 3% of arable land was being cultivated at the time of liberation.

Although liberation had fundamentally altered the balance of class forces in favour of the workers and peasants, remnants of the dispossessed classes, their interests, ideas and narrow prejudices remained. The old colonial society did not vanish overnight, nor did it go away of its own accord, but continued to drag back the progressive development of the socialist economy, materially and socially.

For instance, the development of an adequate health service for all Angolans was hampered by elitist attitudes among nurses and technicians who demanded higher wages and status. The authors devote a whole chapter to the attempted Alves coup of 1977, led by the petit bourgeois adventurists who had begun manoeuvring while the life and death struggle for liberation was going on. These elements actively encouraged such backward elitism and advanced left-sounding criticism (they had no concrete policies) completely oblivious of, and indeed taking advantage of, the enormous difficulties of the transition from colonialism to socialism. Like their petit bourgeois counterparts in imperialist Britain, they concentrated their efforts on attacking the leadership of the MPLA, blaming the country's economic difficulties on them and attempting to disaffect the Angolan masses from their leadership. These ultra-left elements, in alliance with Portuguese ex-students, arrogantly counterposed themselves to the experienced anti-imperialist fighters and militants of the MPLA, and in doing so lined up alongside the imperialists.

In Portugal, the working class, whose own freedom from fascism had been brought about precisely by anti-imperialist struggles in Angola and Mozambique weakening and defeating their imperialist rulers, were using the strike weapon to great effect to advance their position. The leftists advocated the same tactic for the Angolan workers, completely ignoring the realities of the situation in 1975. Correctly, the MPLA was urging workers to increase production through the slogan 'Production is Resistance' in order to resist imperialist sabotage and destruction and to make up for the disruptive exodus of the white settlers.

During the attempted coup in 1977 these leftists actually serviced imperialism's interests by murdering leaders of the MPLA, who had devoted their lives to the freedom of the Angolan people, comrades Dangereux, Nzaji and Bula.

The book closes with chapters on the serious attempts at destabilisation of people's Angola by the imperialists through the agency of South Africa. This undeclared war, ignored by the western media, is going on now and is forcing Angola to devote 50% of its budget to defence, while much needed skills and knowledge which would revolutionise the Angolan economy are also tied up in this vital area. 1981 saw 'Operation Protea', the full scale invasion of Southern Angola by Southern Africa and much of Kunene Province remains under their control due to their superior air power.

Despite this Angola, the 'Cuba of Africa' plays the fullest part in the frontline against racist South Africa, and continues to give material support to SWAPO and the ANC.

This excellent book is about real, living, and developing history and like all history contains within it the seeds of the future. What confidence and hope Oliver Tambo must have felt when he stood, alongside comrade Lucio Lara of the MPLA in 1976 and watched the hated racist South African army driven, broken and humiliated, out of the borders of the People's Republic of Angola. An excellent book worth reading.
M McGregor

The struggle for Africa is available from Larkin Publications BM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX or Zed Press 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DN.

IRELAND

IRA ATTACKS

On 29 September Tyrone Brigade Volunteers used blast and incendiary bombs to destroy a pub in Pomeroy, two shops and two filling stations in Dungannon, a supermarket in Cabragh, and the County Buildings in Strabane. Tyrone Brigade struck against British 'justice' on 14 October when two volunteers used a shopping trolley to push a beer-keg bomb up to Omagh Courthouse seriously damaging the building. A 500 pound car bomb in Scotch Street, Armagh caused over one million pounds of damage to commercial premises on 28 October.

Sniping attacks wounded an RUC man leaving Cloughmills Barracks, North Antrim on 11 September; wounded a British soldier at a road-block near Crossmaglen on 4 October; wounded a RUC Chief Inspector inside Woodbourne Barracks on 10 October; killed a UDR soldier near Dungannon on 24 October; and killed an RUC man near Ballymoney on 5 November.

The IRA has taken action against att-

Since the great escape of 38 IRA volunteers from Long Kesh on 25 September the IRA have launched over twenty attacks against commercial targets and enemy personnel throughout the six counties.



Bombed bridge in Coalisland, Co Tyrone

Resistance in Free State prisons

On Saturday 5 November, nearly 100 prisoners in A-Wing of Dublin's notorious Mountjoy Prison fought Gardai units who had taken over control of the prison after a walkout by the prison officers. 40 prisoners and 29 Gardai were injured and one prisoner suffered fractures. The prison officers' walkout was part of their protest against new Department of Justice proposals for running the prison which would reduce overtime pay for the screws.

The Mountjoy screws who last year earned between £16,000-£20,000 are well known for their brutal and violent methods they use to repress prisoners under their control. On Sunday 11 September 20 prisoners staged a revolt in the high security section of Mountjoy to highlight conditions there. Three prisoners climbed on to the roof and shouted their condemnation of the prison regime. While associates of the ruling class such as Malcolm McArthur (who before his conviction was caught in the home of ex-Attorney General Patrick Connolly) receives supplies of whiskey, gets parcels every day, can leave his cell when he wishes, working class and Republican prisoners are treated worse than slaves. Apart from beatings and intimidation, Mountjoy prisoners are controlled by the widespread use of powerful drugs. Some prisoners are known to have remained unconscious for five days after such 'treatment'. The Prisoners Rights Org-

anisation also reports that screws bribe prisoners to start incidents, so that screws can claim extra pay allowances.

Resistance to barbaric prison conditions is not confined to Mountjoy. Next door is the St Patricks Institution, a children's prison. It is known for its harsh conditions where youths serve two years or more, there is no early release and detainees can be held at the discretion of the prison board even after they have completed their sentences. On the same day as the 11 September Mountjoy protest 230 youths seized the opportunity to take control of the Institution for a short while. 10 escaped but many were recaptured shortly afterwards. Nevertheless, the prisoners in Mountjoy and St Patricks have shown a lead in the struggle for prison rights, a struggle which proves that in the 26 Counties, just as in the British occupied Six Counties, brutal repression is met with courageous resistance.

Gerald Johnson

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE 'OPERATIONS'

Early in October, Tony and Margaret Hayde, founder members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP), set off for a week's holiday in Torremolinos, Spain. The couple had won 3rd prize in a 'competition' and a 'travel company', Casuro Ltd, arranged the flight and accommodation. They arrived on 2 October and Mr Hayde was surprised by the hotel which was '... very posh, up-market... all the other guests seemed to be rich, elderly Americans', not exactly 'package-type'.

On day 2 they were contacted by a Tim Leach 'the courier' whose job was to look after them. The Haydes described Leach as like an 'archetypal British army officer... we both wondered why a guy like him with his Oxbridge accent was working as a courier.' He introduced them to a Mr Jim Dovey and his cousin, Janet, and Dovey later told them that they were working with British intelligence. The Haydes were offered £10,000 for 'advice' on IRSP members. They naturally refused the money saying that they were Republicans and would not work for British intelligence.

Investigations have shown that there is no such travel company as Casuro

Ltd and all correspondence with the 'company' was through a 'Rent a Mail box' firm in East London. The phone number had a Westminster exchange - 222 - the exchange of many government offices in Whitehall. There are also unmarked government offices and a section of the Cabinet Office in this exchange area.

Further evidence of British intelligence's 'operations' was reported in An Phoblacht/Republican News 13 October from another couple, Bridget and Henry Logue who had undergone a similar experience to the Haydes via Casuro Ltd two weeks earlier. But Henry Logue, instead of taking the holiday with the Belfast Republican who shared his flat and who is well known by the British authorities and Dublin Special Branch, went with his wife, thus foiling British intelligence before a bribe could be made.

The sinister implications behind the Haydes/Logues experiences and the non-existence of Casuro Ltd, are clear. The British state will stop at nothing, however underhand, to try to undermine and destroy the Republican movement. Alexa Byrne.

tempts to reintroduce the hated sectarian RUC into nationalist areas under the guise of 'community policemen'. In the Meadowlands Estate in Downpatrick on 6 October two IRA volunteers confronted a two man RUC foot patrol and shot them dead. In the Ballymagroarty Estate in Derry city on 28 October an IRA active service unit of two men shot dead an RUC man driving away in his car.

On 16 October a carefully planned attack by the Derry Brigade IRA killed

one British soldier and seriously wounded a second. A ten pound remote controlled bomb attached to a wall was exploded when a 2 jeep army patrol was passing along the Lone Moor Road. On 26 October the IRA responded to harassment of the nationalist community in South Armagh by the Grenadier Guards Regiment by exploding a car bomb in Crossmaglen town square which seriously injured two members of a foot patrol of the Grenadier Guards. In an ambush on 31 October four South Armagh volunteers with automatic rifles wounded two RUC men when they opened up on a RUC patrol car from the back of a van.

On 4 November a bomb concealed in a wall cavity killed an RUC Inspector and Sergeant and injured 13 other RUC men who were attending a police studies course at Ulster Polytechnic near Belfast. Within the next 6 days 2 more RUC officers were killed in separate IRA attacks.

Since the stepped up use of informers against the Republican Movement the RUC has been claiming that, as a result, the IRA is reeling. The scale of IRA operations since 25 September belies these claims.

ank Coughlan

Irish Solidarity Movement NEWS

Since the formation of the Irish Solidarity Movement (ISM) on 2 October 1983, Irish Solidarity Committees have been preparing for the movement's first national delegates' meeting. This will be hosted by the Manchester ISC on Saturday 26 November allowing those who attend to join the Manchester Martyrs demonstration in the city on the following day.

The ISM meeting will discuss the movement's constitution and will also elect its officers. The 2 October conference which set up the ISM instructed it to organise a national week of action in support of the demand 'The Right of Repatriation for all Irish POWs!'. This,

and a week of action against the use of informers against the Republican Movement, will constitute the main discussions of the day. At the end of the day all ISCs will be well prepared to energetically campaign on these questions.

In line with the democratic structure of the ISM, a draft constitution and a provisional agenda for the meeting have been circulated to all ISCs and affiliated organisations, with invitations for them to submit their amendments, proposals and recommendations. Anyone wishing to attend (observers are welcome) the first ISM delegates meeting should contact the ISM at BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX.

ISCs AGAINST US INVASION OF GRENADA

During the last week of October and the first two weeks of November Irish Solidarity Committees throughout the country joined demonstrations, pickets and other protests against the US invasion and occupation of Grenada. Participation in this campaign did not however prevent the ISCs from carrying out their regular work of street meetings, petitioning and other activities in working class districts. From the experience on these activities it is clear that the ISM petition calling for 'The Right of Repatriation for All Irish POWs!' is gaining the support of hundreds of working class people.

PICKET AT GARTREE PRISON

On Sunday 6 November RCG/FRFI and North London ISC supporters joined the Sinn Fein picket of Gartree prison in solidarity with Irish POWs incarcerated there. The 40-50 strong picket was also supported by Birmingham Sinn Fein, Leicester TOM, Leicester University Irish Society and Birmingham RCP/IFM. A continuous barrage of slogans was maintained throughout and the picket ended with a short march outside the prison.

Helen O'Brien, sister of Irish POW John McCluskey visited her brother during the picket. Afterwards she reported that the slogans could be heard loud and clear inside the prison.

ISM ADVANCES IN COLLEGES

A development of note since the 2 October conference has been the formation of Irish Solidarity Societies in Stirling University, Dundee University and Glasgow University. In addition a newly formed Troops Out Society in Edinburgh University has affiliated to ISM and supporters in York University are planning Irish solidarity activities with a view to establishing a society.

To consolidate the gains being made in Scotland the Edinburgh ISC on December 11 is organising a Scottish Irish Activists conference and further details of this can be obtained from the EISC, c/o Box 110, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh. The Manchester ISC also has a major weekend of solidarity planned for 10/11 December with a rally and prison picket on Saturday 10 December and a day-school begins at 10am on Sunday and will take place at the Longsight Library in Manchester. For full details of MISC's events see Events column on page 14.

ISM NATIONAL LEAFLET AND PETITION

The ISM has now produced thousands of petitions calling for 'The Right of Repatriation for All Irish POWs!' and a national leaflet announcing the formation and aims of the Irish Solidarity Movement. Anyone who wishes to receive copies of these should write to ISM, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX.

STOP PRESS

On Saturday 12 November, the IRA carried out yet another operation. Using a hijacked lorry IRA volunteers mortar bombed the Carrickmore police station built only 2 years ago. One RUC man was killed and six injured.

£9bn TO OPPRESS IRISH PEOPLE

A report recently published by the New Ireland Forum contains some interesting information. Of particular note are figures showing the huge cost of British imperialism's war to maintain its occupation of the Six Counties of Ireland. The report quotes the sum of £9 billion spent by British governments on the war since 1969. This expenditure breaks down into £4.195bn in security costs, £1.010bn in compensation for deaths and damage to property and £3.80bn in lost production. These figures are stark confirmation that British imperialism is prepared to spend huge sums to maintain its rule over Ireland.

Eddie Abrahams



GERRY ADAMS ATTACKED

James Prior has privately informed Tory backbench MPs that Gerry Adams has the makings of a 'totalitarian dictator' and that if Sinn Fein superseded the puppet collaborationist SDLP, Ireland could become Britain's Cuba. Prior's slanderous remarks about Gerry Adams come ill from a government which imposes murder, torture, corrupt non-jury courts and poverty on the Irish people. Prior reveals the desperation of British imperialism as its prized strategies crumble in the face of nationalist resistance.

Anti-imperialists in Britain welcome with joy the prospect of Ireland becoming Britain's Cuba. We also congratulate Gerry Adams on his election to President of Sinn Fein.

Terry Marlowe

ANGLO IRISH SUMMIT

The first Anglo-Irish summit in two years took place in November. The meeting between Garret Fitzgerald and Margaret Thatcher was delayed by the refusal of the Free State Government to implement sanctions against Argentina during the Falklands/Malvinas war. This decision, made because the Free State was limited in its desire to compromise Irish neutrality in the face of the wishes of the Irish people, has caused - on the surface - poor relations between the two countries.

Senior Irish and British Ministers have, however, met on no less than 20 occasions since 1982 to discuss 'security matters'. Fear is increasing among Britain's lackeys in the south that the war in the six counties will spill over into the 26 counties. According to the Irish Times, 'Dr Fitzgerald's central concern (at the summit) remains the degree of alienation of the nationalist minority in the North from the authorities there, and the subsequent growth in support for Sinn Fein'.

Fitzgerald's other major concern is that Thatcher is no longer interested in achieving a political settlement in the six counties involving the SDLP and other collaborationist forces, and is happy to continue to pursue a military solution alone. In turning down an invitation to speak at a meeting of Conservative and Unionist 'integrationists' Thatcher is quoted as saying, with classic racist arrogance.

'Such a pity the people who make such nice crystal should go on fighting all the time'.

William Grey

Round-up

City of London AA Public Meeting

On 20 October City of London Anti-Apartheid group held a public meeting with the demands *Hands Off Namibia! Victory to SWAPO!*. About 70 people attended, many of them new faces. The meeting began with the film *Liberation Struggle in Namibia*. The film explains the history of the Namibian people's struggle, and how they are continuing against all odds to fight back and defeat the South Africans who have been illegally occupying their country since 1915. The film also showed how SWAPO were bringing medical aid to people in the villages who would otherwise have none. And how the South Africans were torturing local people in an effort to make them tell where SWAPO were hiding.

There were speakers from SWAPO, Namibia Support Committee and City of London AA Group. Sackey Schikwambi from SWAPO gave an excellent speech, emphasising the importance of building support for SWAPO and the ANC in Britain and in other countries. He also made the link between the struggle in South Africa and Namibia and the front line states, saying that until liberation they would not be entirely free from South African aggression, particularly Mozambique and Angola who South Africa frequently attacks. The speaker from City AA stressed the importance of exposing British collaboration with the apartheid regime, through street and other activities, and how it is vital that a strong anti-apartheid movement is continued to be built, to give total support to the liberation movements in Southern Africa. Victory to the ANC! Victory to SWAPO! Nomsa

Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group

On Saturday 15 October - the Bradford AA Group joined other AA groups around the country in a collection of material goods for the refugees of South Africa and Namibia. The AA Group, armed with placards, petitions, and leaflets stood outside 'Boots' the chemist, and urged people to donate generously from their shopping bags. We received a warm response, and a sackful of much needed items, such as: toothbrushes; soap; cotton wool; vitamin pills; and sanitary towels were collected.

On Wednesday 2 November, as part of the AAM's National Day of Action against Barclay's disgusting role in Namibia, the Bradford AA Group held a lively picket outside the college branch of Barclay's bank in Bradford. Many people took leaflets and voiced their support for the protest - over £15 was raised and 7 AA News and 17 FRFI's sold.

Jenefer Thomas

Sandinistas visit Edinburgh

On Wednesday 19 October the Edinburgh Latin American Solidarity Campaign hosted a meeting with two representatives of the Nicaraguan Citizens Defence Committees who were visiting a total of 12 countries to speak about what's happened in Nicaragua since 1979.

There were about 100 people at the meeting and heard that 60% of the Citizen's Defence Committees were women. The two representatives, Ronald Parades who is on the Defence Committee, and Fernando Saavedra who is on the Peace Committee, described how

the US blockade is destroying the Nicaraguan economy and that 30,000 people have to be evacuated from Corinto the main port of Nicaragua.

The majority of the audience was interested to hear of successful developments such as the eradication of polio in Nicaragua. Unfortunately a member of 'Militant' found it necessary to cast doubt on these developments. He wanted to know (1) How can the Sandinistas say that the revolution was successful if industrial production had fallen since 1979; (2) According to recent reports the Sandinistas' (FSLN) membership has fallen. Does this mean that the Committees have become elitist? (3) What are the conditions of the Miskito Indians? The Sandinistas answered in Spanish and before it was translated the audience knew they blamed the reports on Western bourgeois propaganda. They went on to say that the people of Nicaragua have all rallied round to defend their gains and production has fallen because of the imperialist US blockade. Human rights for the Miskito Indians were guaranteed by the constitution as were the rights of all people of Nicaragua. The only threat to these rights is the US blockade which is endangering people's lives.

Lorna Morgan

Solidarity with Grenada

Following the US invasion of Grenada FRFI supporters all over the country have mobilised for a series of solidarity actions.

London

On Saturday 5 November a demonstration was called in London by the New Jewel Movement. 5,000 people with more than 50 organi-



FRFI and SNHDC supporters on one of the daily pickets of the US Embassy.

sations marched. The demonstrators demanded the complete withdrawal of US troops from Grenada and the Caribbean.

The Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!, London ISCs, SNHDC, and City AAM contingents loudly chanted throughout: 'Ireland! Lebanon! Grenada! One Struggle, One Fight!' and 'Cowboy Reagan Out of Grenada! Iron Maiden Out of Grenada!'. The rally was addressed by a CND representative, Tony Benn, Judith Hart, a representative of the Nicaraguan Embassy, and Fennis Augustine, the Grenadan High Commissioner in London. Fennis Augustine spoke to the rally about the barbaric and vicious activities of the US troops in Grenada. He also thanked the Cubans who defended Grenada alongside the Grenadan soldiers and went on to say: 'We must not let this happen to Nicaragua and other independent countries in the region... we are committed to the 1979 revolution in Grenada and we shall not go back! Forward ever!'

Nick Razmy

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Latin America Solidarity Campaign called three pickets outside the US consulate on 26-28 October demanding an end to the US invasion of Grenada. The pickets, which were 20 strong, were supported by Edinburgh FRFI, YCL, Women for Peace and individuals. On each day the police attempted to move the picket across the road away from the immediate vicinity of the consulate but we refused to move. The police were heaviest on the first

and third days when they threw around threats of arrest and charges of breach of the peace and obstruction. We pointed out that we were not causing an obstruction and in our opinion the only breach of the peace being committed was by the US invading Grenada. When the police saw that we were determined not to move they soon slunk off and we successfully defended our democratic right to protest.

Lorna Morgan

Manchester

On Wednesday 26 October a 300 strong demonstration took place in Manchester to protest against the US invasion of Grenada. Among the contingents were Manchester FRFI and Manchester ISC. Following the march a rally was held with speakers from Grenada and Nicaragua as well as local speakers. The Grenadan speaker gave a defiant speech exposing the hypocrisy of the USA when she said: 'Reagan justified his brutal invasion saying that certain Caribbean countries had called for this action. Does this mean that if every single African nation called for an end to the apartheid regime in South Africa he would comply?' Manchester FRFI

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IRISH SOLIDARITY COMMITTEES

EDINBURGH

Irish Solidarity Committee. Meets every Sunday - organising meetings, filmshows, street campaigning, discussion and education. Contact EISC c/o Box 110, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

DUNDEE

Irish Solidarity Committee - contact FRFI sellers

GLASGOW

Irish Freedom Action Committee meets weekly. For details write to GIFAC c/o Box 27, 488 Great Western Road, Glasgow

TYNESIDE

Action Committee on Ireland meets weekly. For details write to A S King, c/o Porters Lodge, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NORTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets on Fridays 2 December and 16 December at Camden Labour Club, Carol St, London NW1, near Camden Tube at 7.30pm. For details write to NLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

SOUTH LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets on Thursday 24 November and Friday 9 December at 7.30pm, at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. For details write to SLISC, BM 4835, London WC1N 3XX

LONDON FRFI RALLY

Hands Off Grenada! Imperialism Out of Central America!

Monday 21 November 7.30pm

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (nearest tube Holborn)
Speakers: FRFI, New Jewel Movement, Lebanese National Movement

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6 The Loyalist Working Class
7 The British Labour Party and Ireland
8 The Prison Struggle
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Further details from: RCG BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

FRFI SUPPORTER GROUPS

CENTRAL LONDON

FRFI Supporters Group. Next meeting: Sunday 20 November. 'Racism and Imperialism' and US Invasion of Grenada. Contact FRFI sellers for details

BRADFORD

For details write to FRFI, c/o The Starry Plough Bookshop, 6 Edmond St, Bradford 5

EDINBURGH

FRFI Supporters Group meets fortnightly on Mondays. Further details from FRFI Box 40, First of May Bookshop, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh

LEEDS

FRFI Supporters Groups meet every second Thursday at Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 7, 7.30pm. Further details from FRFI, c/o LAP, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2

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IRISH SOLIDARITY

Christmas Cards

10p each from Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee Box 47, 164-166, Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN

MANCHESTER

Irish Solidarity Committee. Details and information on activities can be obtained from MISC, Box 47, 164-166 Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M3 4BN.

EAST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For information and details write to ELISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

WEST LONDON

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly, at Hammersmith Labour Party Rooms, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12. For more information about the work of the committee write to WLISC, BM Box 4835, London WC1N 3XX

LIVERPOOL

Irish Solidarity Committee meets fortnightly. For details write to LISC, PO Box 94 Liverpool L69 8AY

SOUTHAMPTON

Irish Solidarity Committee. For more information contact ISM, BM Box 4835 London WC1N 3XX

BRADFORD

Irish Solidarity Committee. For details contact BISC c/o Starry Plough Bookshop, The Left Club, 6 Edmund Street, Bradford.

EVENTS

12 - 18 NOVEMBER

SOUTH LONDON

Forum Fight Police Harassment! Defend the Peckham 2! Drop the charges now! Wednesday 16 November 7.30pm Southwark Unemployed Centre, 83 Peckham High Street, Peckham SE15

MANCHESTER

Public Meeting Hands Off Grenada Thursday 17 November Basement Theatre, Old Town Hall, Manchester, 7.30pm. Called by Manchester FRFI

19-25 NOVEMBER

LONDON

Street meeting: Defend the Trafalgar 9 Saturday 19 November Lewisham Clock Tower 10.30am. Called by Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign

LONDON

Fragmenting a nation: Removals and Genocide in South Africa Films - Speakers - Discussion - Exhibition Saturday 19 November Hampstead Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, London NW3 (nearest tube: Belsize Park) 2.30-5.30pm. Organised by African National Congress Womens Section and Anti-Apartheid Movement Womens Committee

MANCHESTER

Demonstration Hands Off Grenada! Saturday 19 November. Assemble 11am Moss Lane East, Princess Road and end with Rally in Albert Square. Called by No Intervention in Central America or the Caribbean

BRADFORD

Street Meeting Support the Right of Reparation for all Irish POWs Saturday 19 November 11am-1pm outside Provincial House, Bradford City Centre. Called by Bradford Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!

LONDON

FRFI Rally Hands Off Grenada! Imperialism Out of Central America! Monday 21 November 7.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Speakers: FRFI, New Jewel Movement, Lebanese National Movement

SOUTH LONDON

Court picket Fight Police Harassment! Defend the Peckham 2! Tuesday 22 November 10am, Tower Bridge Magistrates Court, Tooley St SE1.

LONDON

Public Meeting Trafalgar 9 are Innocent! Drop the Charges Now! Defend the Right to Demonstration outside South Africa House! We are black - we are white - we want democratic rights! Wednesday 23 November, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, 7.30pm. Called by Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign

DUNDEE

Public Forum Repression in Ireland, Repression in Britain Thursday 24 November 7.30pm Wishart Centre, King St, Dundee. Called by Dundee FRFI supporters group

26 NOV - 2 DEC

MANCHESTER

Demonstration Remember the Manchester Martyrs Sunday 27 November. Assemble Oak St, Off Swan St, New Cross, Manchester 1pm. Called by Manchester Martyrs Memorial Committee

LEEDS

Public Forum Hands Off Grenada! Tuesday 29 November Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7, 7.30pm. Called by Leeds FRFI

LIVERPOOL

Public Forum British Imperialism and Ireland Wednesday 30 November AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, 7.30pm. Admission 20p. Called by Liverpool FRFI

LONDON

Public Meeting Smash the show trials! No more informers! Wednesday 30 November 7.30pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (Nearest tube, Holborn). Called by London Irish Solidarity Committees

BRADFORD

Bradford Anti-Apartheid Group meets fortnightly: All welcome! Next meeting: Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm, Queens Hall Conference Room, Morley Street, Bradford

LONDON

24 Hour Picket Release Nelson Mandela! Release All South African Political Prisoners! Friday 2 December 5.30pm - Saturday 3 December 5.30pm South Africa House, Trafalgar Square. Called by City of London Anti-Apartheid Group

3 - 9 DECEMBER

LONDON

Picket Trafalgar 9 are Innocent! Defend the Right to Demonstrate outside South Africa House! Monday 5 December, Daily for 2 weeks. North London Magistrates Court, Stoke Newington Road, 10am. Called by Trafalgar 9 Defence Campaign

LEEDS

Public Meeting The Supergrass System in Ireland. Stop the Show Trials! Tuesday 6 December Chapeltown Community Centre, Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7, 7.30pm. Admission 30p. Called by Leeds FRFI

BRADFORD

The Communist Tradition on Ireland Part 2 - The Right of Nations to Self-Determination Thursday 8 December 7.30pm. Venue: Queens Hall Conference Room, Morley Street, Bradford. Called by Bradford FRFI

DUNDEE

Public Meeting Stop the Show Trials. Britain's Informer Strategy in Ireland Thursday 8 December 7.30pm, Wishart Centre, King St, Dundee. Called by Dundee Irish Solidarity Committee

10 - 16 DECEMBER

MANCHESTER

Weekend of Action Rally under slogans of Albany POWs: Complete British Withdrawal from Ireland. Self-Determination for the Irish People! Reparation on Demand for All POWs to Ireland! 11am Piccadilly Gardens Manchester, Saturday 10 December followed by Picket of Strangeways Prison 2.30-4.00pm. Social in the evening. Dayschool 10.50-5.30 Sunday 11 December Longsight Library, Longsight. Films, video, discussion, creche, bookstall, food display. Sessions on: Irish POWs in English Gaols/Women Prisoners in Armagh/British Terror in Ireland/Informers/Prevention of Terrorism Act Registration fee: £1 unwaged, £2.50 waged. Called by Manchester Irish Solidarity Committee

letters

Please note our address is, FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX. SEND US YOUR LETTERS. We welcome letters from readers but please keep them as short as you can.

Sectarianism

Dear Comrades,
With reference to the BISM conference and the GIFAC's alleged 'sectarian' attitude. Having carefully read the article regarding the conference we wish to point out a few glaring contradictions.

You quote that the conference was carrying out a truly democratic policy by ruling that the majority (and this is debatable as we mean to point out) must bow to the majority.

If this is as democratic as you claim then do you uphold the view that the loyalist majority in Northern Ireland have the right to oppress the nationalist minority? Also do you agree on the same basis that England has the right to dictate the future of Northern Ireland because they in fact could claim to be the majority in the 'United Kingdom'?

This case could also be applied to Scotland and we would further wish to point out that various other Scottish-based groups (in all 10) supported GIFAC's view. The minority grows! This could be said to represent a majority view in Scotland which is dictated by English opinion as a whole, therefore English attitudes will prevail now and in any future conference decisions if democracy is to be used in your sense. We would like it to be known that by disenfranchising a sizeable majority in Scotland you are in fact upholding imperialist attitudes even though you claim that your very nature is anti-imperialist.

In the light of this situation we have deemed it necessary to set up a Scottish committee, NOT because we wish to stand in the way of unity between the English and Scottish proletariat for the Irish cause, but rather because we cannot work within a movement which is dominated by English chauvinism and petty wrangling of an 'inter-politico' nature.

The Irish Republican Movement has throughout its history provided an honourable example to those who wish to learn from it. The Scottish committee will, from its inception, engage itself in meaningful work and activity designed to support and in effect help the liberation struggle waged by the Republican Movement to end in victory.

True support is as clear as you

dear to make it.
That, is solidarity.

A Taylor
R Forbes
Dundee

Editor:

The main political points on the GIFAC issue were made in FRFI 33 and comrades are recommended to refer to that. To deal with the points made by the Dundee comrades:

1. The comparison with the loyalists is absurd. The loyalists are a minority in Ireland converted artificially into a majority to justify continued British imperialist domination of Ireland as a whole. GIFAC and its supporters are demonstrably a minority within the ISCs and are artificially making themselves a majority by setting up this so-called Scottish committee.

2. The claim that the decisions made by the 1 October Mobilising Committee (10MC) were 'English chauvinism' is also absurd in light of the fact that those decisions were supported by Edinburgh and Dundee ISC supporters who played a full part in the conference. There were also comrades from Glasgow at the conference who raised no objection to these decisions. The attempt to equate GIFAC with the people of Scotland is fatuous.

3. All the petty wrangling in this dispute has come from GIFAC and its supporters as evidenced by the grossly sexist cartoon attacking the RCG in the latest issue of GIFAC's 'Ireland's War'.

4. The Irish Republican movement has indeed provided an honourable example of rising above all petty narrow and sectarian concerns in order to forge unity behind the central task of freeing Ireland from British imperialist rule. It is to be hoped that GIFAC do learn this lesson.

5. We hope that GIFAC and its supporters do engage in meaningful work and activity. The best proof of this would be an immediate end to its sectarian and abusive attacks coupled with a decision to affiliate to the ISM alongside EISC, DISC, Glasgow University Irish Solidarity Society and Edinburgh Troops Out Society. It is even now not too late for GIFAC and its supporters to cease their present disastrous campaign against the ISM.

Irish Solidarity

I am writing to you about a problem I am having with the Irish Freedom Movement. A friend and I have recently set up an Irish Solidarity Society within Glasgow University and have encountered members of the RCP who have also set up a society within the confines of the University. Recently the RCP held a public meeting in one of the University Unions and showed the film made by the IFM 'The Longest War'.

Believing this meeting to be a good opportunity to enlist support for our society and perhaps to do some petitioning, we went along. However, the meeting centred around the need to build an Irish Solidarity movement and how the IFM was doing just that. At the discussion that followed, I asked the chair to tell me why the IFM rejected the Irish Solidarity Movement and if the attitude of one of their members (who refused to sign the BISM petition calling for Victory to the Irish People, Troops Out Now) was typical of the rest of their group.

I received a lengthy and largely irrelevant answer by one of the members who said the IFM didn't support BISM because of the influence of the RCG, who she believed did not have the right attitude concerning the war in Ireland. She seemed to be of the opinion that the ISM was the RCG. My attempt to reply to her question was cut off rapidly by the chair who claimed I was out of order, and when I did get my chance to speak my point was largely lost because of the large gap enforced by the chair.

I and, I am sure, many other members of ISCs who are not members of the RCG firmly resent the implication that they are merely puppets controlled by the RCG. The RCP and the IFM should take a long look at their own stand on Ireland since I personally doubt their sincerity when they refuse to support a movement whose demands don't differ greatly from their own because of the quantity of RCG members. For me it cast very dark doubts on the sincerity of their call for unity which they ended their film with.

Kim C
Glasgow

Certain conviction?

Dear FRFI,
On Friday 14 January this year, the police shot and nearly killed Stephen Waldorf, a front seat passenger in a yellow mini, which at the time was stationary in the rush-hour traffic at Pembroke Road in London (see FRFI 26).

... In my view, all the evidence, which I believe is solid, points to certain conviction of Detective Constables Finch and Jardine. But no, the British judicial system does not think so... They have been let go! Set free! Acquitted! and to add to this unbelievable trial, the jury practically blamed the whole incident on Stephen Waldorf, the victim! for having 'an uncanny likeness to David Martin'!

... This not guilty verdict gives the British police a licence to kill. We can now see that the shoot-to-kill policy used by the RUC and British Army in the Six Counties has been transferred to Britain. The only difference being that the British gutter press seemed to think that as this was London, not Belfast, the incident was newsworthy...

Veronica F
Edinburgh

Framing innocent people

Dear FRFI,
On Tuesday 25 October, at Snaresbrook Crown Court, Ace Kelly, Chairman of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, was framed and charged with possession of Cannabis. When we read about the case from the October issue of FRFI, we felt we should give our support to somebody who had spent so long defending the rights of today's youth, so we decided to go to the picket at the Court and discover for ourselves first hand how the police behaved in their work.

The first witness PC William Keddy (G254), he had a very negative attitude to the questions that he was asked, he acted in our opinion like a pathetic little school boy reprimanded by the teacher. He has been a PC for ten years and we could see why. The next witness was inspector Monaghan, who having spent 15 years in the service, contradicted everything PC Keddy said.

This case was a great achievement for the public as well as the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, because the only way that Ace could be found not guilty was for the jury to believe that the police had substituted Ace's tobacco for Cannabis. So the trial's verdict revealed yet more police corruption concocted charges and purgery, and more importantly proved to the police that they will not be allowed to get away with harrasing and framing innocent people, or exercising racist views without a determined, organised fight from the general public.

2 Sedgemoor Sixth Form Students

Fight Imperialism?

Dear FRFI,
While selling FRFI on Saturday many young people looked at the title of the paper and as they passed they asked each other, what is Imperialism?, or what does it mean? In the past many people have openly criticised the papers name and have said, if the name were different we would make more contact with the youth. Some have said that it gives the impression that the paper and those that sell it are middle class do gooders. One person who now buys the paper every month and in fact now sells it occasionally, says that he had seen it before and was on many occasions asked to buy it, but in fact didn't as the name put him off. It wasn't until someone he knew had a copy and he glanced through it. His impression 'EXCELLENT NEWSPAPER', 'THE BEST IN BRITAIN! NO FAULTS', except its name. He suggested calling the paper,

One struggle One fight

Comrade Editor,
In the last issue of Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! you have, unfortunately, misquoted me on my speech at the Irish Solidarity Rally on 1 October.

We, the members of the Asian Collective, strongly believe that because of the common experience of imperialism, slavery and racism, Afro-Caribbean and Asian people of Britain are shaped by the same political and ideological views. We believe that we are part and parcel of the black resistance in Britain.

We call ourselves Asian Collective because we believe that the only practical way to bring the true political unity among all the black people in Britain (Afro-Asian origin) is to unite our common political struggle. Only through this political unity our identity as Blacks will be realised.

I am black and will never use

the phrase 'Black and Asian'. The concept is not only wrong and misleading, it is dangerous and dividing.

We, the Asian Collective, unconditionally support the Irish struggle. We believe that the struggle of the Asians, Afro-Caribbean, Palestinians, Central American and Irish people is the same struggle - the struggle for liberation.

We are also aware that the RCG and RCL are relentlessly working to build up an Irish Solidarity movement in Britain. You have an implacable record of supporting the struggle of the Irish people.

We are proud to be with the Irish Solidarity Movement. Fraternally,
Dipak Basu
Asian Collective

Editor's note: Our apologies to Comrade Dipak and the Comrades in the Asian Collective for misquoting the speech.

Great Front Page

Dear FRFI,
Issue No 33 the usual gem - well done. Great to see the released prisoners at the Sinn Fein press conference following Robert Lean's retraction and, included in the TV AM report, the prisoners' details of bribes from the hated RUC. The night shift I work on were a bit surprised to hear me howl and cheer the night the 'meals on wheels' news came through (Sunday), but they unanimously cracked up at your front page photo of the shining example of the Irish people's humour. I've been asked by a woman who works with me to

loan her 'Guerrilla Days in Ireland' by Tom Barry and her 12 year old son wants to take that front page photo and pin it up on his classroom noticeboard..

I've post-dated the cheque to coincide with my salary clearing my bank account and would like £8 to go to prisoner's papers/books or other needs and the rest to your fund drive: the cheaper you can sell at, the more you reach, the nearer the dawn.

Hope all went well for Ace Kelly yesterday, Fitzroy Andrew Monday.

Best wishes in solidarity,
Chris W

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that the new address for the Campaign for Gay Rights in Prison and Access to Homosexual Newspapers for Gay Inmates is:

Campaign for Gay-Lit
c/o 105 Causer Court
Lower Kersal
Salford M7 05Q
Lancashire

More information is available from the above address.

BECOME A FIGHT RACISM! FIGHT IMPERIALISM! SUPPORTER

If you are willing to help the work which FRFI is doing, become an FRFI supporter.

We need more people to sell FRFI and to involve others in the fightback. We need more people writing for FRFI about their local struggles and campaigns.

Fill in your name and address on the form below, and send £5. You will receive a supporter card, a year's subscription to FRFI and details of all our activities in your area and nationally. (Postal orders and cheques payable to Larkin Publications)

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BCM Box 5909 London WC1N 3XX

FUND DRIVE OCTOBER: £604.76

Over £600 this time! We received £104.76 more than the £500 we need to keep FRFI at 20 pence. This takes the 1983 FRFI Fighting Fund to £4,826.67. It means that over the past 45 weeks £15.37 were raised every day to keep down the price of FRFI so it continues to reach those whose rights it defends: the poor, the unemployed, the most oppressed.

With the initiative and imagination of the youth James, Ben and Ciara collected £5 'Guying' in South London; John Holloway from North London again contributed £5, Graham from Cleveland donated £7.60, Sally from London NW7 gave £10. Chris from Lambeth £12 and Mary from Canada £50. Other individual supporters sent in £9.65. A hearty thanks to you all. And also to the many FRFI supporters who made last month's collections and fundraising events a success: they raised in North London £154.99, South London £130.68, Edinburgh £117.10, Manchester £30.05, Dundee £26.15, Leeds £23.50, Bradford £16.95, Liverpool £8.09.

Let's keep this up, because FRFI aims to involve more people in building an anti-imperialist movement. It can succeed only if its message reaches those who stand up for their rights and want to join the organised fightback against injustice and oppression. It can succeed only with your help. Act now by subsidising FRFI!

We will publish all contributions in this column. If you want your name or your organisation mentioned alongside the donation please say so.

Make your donation payable to 'Larkin Publications' and return to: FRFI BCM Box 5909, London WC1N 3XX

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HANDS OFF IRELAND

BRITISH TERROR

GRENADIER TERROR

The Royal Marine Commandos who were responsible for terror in South Armagh (FRFI 29/30) have now been replaced by the brave men of the Grenadier Guards. These men are carrying on in the same tradition as the Commandos.

Based in the town of Crossmaglen they have been using Alsatian dogs to terrorise the Nationalist people. In one incident on 14 October John Foley was savaged by a Brit dog as he stood outside a shop. The Grenadier patrol attempted to drag John off. When this failed they set the dog on him. After the attack John was arrested and dragged off to the local barracks. John's mother described how she found him.

'He was sitting just inside the door. There was blood everywhere dripping off his fingers. He had no shirt or pullover on and he was torn all down his shoulder, under his arm and on his wrist. He was very upset and distressed.'

After running a mile to the barracks and finding her son so hurt, Mrs Foley collapsed. Later she had to be placed on cardiac machine and kept in hospital for four days. John also needed hospital treatment for his wounds and was later charged with assaulting a Grenadier Guard.

A few days later Fergal Kierns was attacked by a Guardsman who smashed his rifle butt into Fergal's face before dragging him off to Crossmaglen Barracks. He later received treatment for his bruised and swollen eye after being charged with assault. The very next day the Guardsmen were back in action. This time they went to the home of the McKenna family. They asked to see Mr McKenna's driving licence and while they were there nearly kicked down the front door, and smashed up the garden fence. When Mrs McKenna made a complaint at the local RUC barracks she was told she would be charged with 'wasting police time' as 'The British army doesn't do such things'.

McALLISTER ASSAULT

Not to be left out, the RUC men in South Armagh assaulted and arrested Sinn Fein's Assembly representative Jim McAllister on 26 October. Following an IRA bomb attack the previous day, the RUC were out for revenge when they grabbed McAllister outside the Sinn Fein constituency office. They arrested and punched him in the mouth, twisted his arms around his back and frogmarched him off to the nearby RUC Barracks. McAllister was released later that day. He now has one of his front teeth missing as a result of a punch delivered by an RUC man.

RELATIVES HARASSED

Following the great escape on Sunday 25 September when 38 volunteers escaped from Long Kesh concentration camp, the forces of British imperialism have been terrorising the relatives of the escapees.

On Friday 14 October, the RUC attacked the mother and brother of escapee Tony McAllister, before arresting and charging them with assault. 18 year old Paul McAllister from New Barnsley, Belfast, was walking to a shop near his home when he was attacked by two RUC men. Paul was thrown against a wall before being dragged into an RUC Landrover. A neighbour who saw the attack informed Paul's mother who attempted to stop the RUC beating her son. The RUC's response was to grab the 54 year old mother of 12 by the hair and drag her to the floor. Paul and Sally were then forced to sit on the floor of the Landrover on the journey to the Henry Taggart Fort. Throughout the journey they

were kicked, sat on and abused. They were both released the next day and both had bad bruising on their backs, arms and legs.

The family of escapee Seamus Campbell has also been harassed by the British army and RUC. Brian Campbell from Coalisland was arrested for the third time in four months on 24 October, and was taken to Gough Barracks. During interrogation Brian was subjected to abuse and asked where his brother was hiding. He was told that if he gave information his family would be left alone. Throughout the interrogation Brian refused to speak and was finally released 36 hours later.

Another incident of harassment took place in the Coalisland area when relatives of republican POWs on their way to Long Kesh and Crumlin Road were stopped at a UDR checkpoint on 12 October. The UDR men took over an hour to take down the names and addresses of the people in the mini-bus, knowing full well they would not get their visits if they were late. When the bus finally arrived at Crumlin Road it was turned away.

TERROR IN LISNASKEA

In Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh the British army/RUC have again been terrorising the Nationalist people. On Wednesday 26 October a joint army/RUC patrol raided the home of Paddy and Claire Foster. The raiders arrived at 8am. On seeing this, Claire attempted to phone her solicitor. The raiders smashed down the front door and punched Claire in the face. She was assaulted again when she attempted to follow a soldier who went upstairs. Paddy went to help her, he was pushed to the floor, kicked and punched before being dragged into another room. He was then held upside down while RUC men bated and kicked him again. This abuse continued throughout the seven hour siege. The raiding party finally left the Foster's home at 3pm.

Even the children of Crossmaglen are not safe from the Grenadiers. 12 year old Barry McAllister was pushed off his bike by a foot patrol. He was saved from further injury by a local woman who carried him off home. Barry's cousin Shane was stopped by another patrol. They accused him of being involved in a shooting incident earlier that day. Only his father's intervention saved him from further harassment.

Another Crossmaglen man Jim Mallon, who has recently suffered Commando harassment (see FRFI 29), is again a target. On 23 October Jim was arrested by a Guardsman when he refused to give his date of birth, as is his right. An RUC patrol was called in to take Jim to the RUC barracks where he was charged with assaulting a Grenadier Guard.

These are just a few of the many acts of terror inflicted on the Nationalist people everyday. British imperialism's occupation of Ireland can only mean continued terror for the Irish people. There can be no peace or justice in Ireland until imperialism is driven out. Alan James

RUC ATTACK A MAN

30 October early on Sunday morning Desmond Monaghan a Lisnaskea man was beaten up by RUC men. He was then admitted to hospital and received seventeen stitches to head wounds. The RUC were outside a chip shop in Lisnaskea main street annoying youths. Him and his wife objected to this and shouted to the RUC 'Leave the young people alone'. For shouting this he got viciously attacked. Realising Desmond's injuries they left. He is now taking legal action. Because of this he has been threatened several times by the RUC. Jennie Auber (age 11)

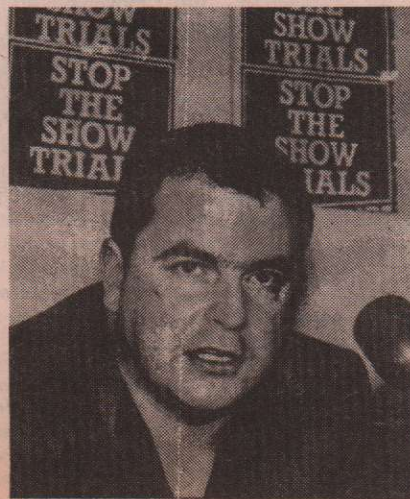
INFORMERS

Strategy cracks

Last month the informer strategy against the nationalist people of the Six Counties received a major setback when on Wednesday 19 October, Robert Lean, said by the RUC to be the most significant Republican informer to date, retracted his evidence implicating 28 people. Lean appeared at a press conference on Wednesday afternoon after having escaped from RUC 'protective' custody and after having signed an affidavit retracting his evidence. Lean revealed that he had been offered immunity and financial inducements in return for implicating top Republicans and that he had acted out of fear for the safety of his family and under intimidation from the RUC.

He was supplied with photographs of the people the RUC wanted, the RUC wrote all the statements and Lean signed them. Lean refused to implicate Gerry Adams, and it has since emerged that Eddie Carmichael and Ivor Bell, implicated in Lean's evidence and since released, were also offered large sums of money, new identities and new homes abroad in return for implicating Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Danny Morrison. Immediately after the press conference, a large force of British army and RUC arrested Lean. He was taken to Castlereagh, contradicting RUC assertions that Lean was a free agent. On Friday 21 October eleven of the twenty-eight implicated by Lean were released and all charges against them dropped.

The following Monday, 24 October, seven Dungannon men walked free from Crumlin Road Courthouse when prosecution lawyers were forced to admit that the crown could produce no evidence against them. The seven were



Robert Lean

facing trial on the word of Patrick McGurk, who had not been heard of since February 1982. Five had been held for 21 months and had been denied the opportunity to challenge whether

SHOW THEM JUSTICE

By Mrs Elizabeth Hill mother of Irish POW Paul Hill

You were fifteen years, my son, when the troubles hit our land,
And instead of being a schoolboy, son, you had to be a man,
You fought against injustice and they vowed they'd make you pay,
So they locked you up in prison for the rest of your life they say.

Things went according to their plan
Til the death of Giuseppe Conlon
A sick and innocent man.

They sent innocent men to prison in the year of 75,
If it wasn't for this injustice Giuseppe Conlon would still be alive,
The death of Giuseppe Conlon that is England's shame
So fight we must to tell the truth and clear this good man's name.

The prosecution for the crown was Sir Michael Havers bold
And the truth about Sir Michael the public must be told,
For finding innocent people guilty promotion came his way,
Attorney General where will your title get you when comes your judgement day.

So fight we must to tell the truth about this case, my son,
So that you and others wrongly convicted with you
Will see true justice done.



GERRY MACLOCHLAINN FREED

On Wednesday 9 November at 7.30am Irish POW Gerry MacLochlainn walked out of Maidstone prison after serving 32 months on a frame up charge of conspiracy to cause explosions. 30 - 40 people were at the gates to welcome him. The picket was supported by local Kent NALGO workers, RCG/FRFI and SLISC, and the RCP/IFM.

In a speech to the picket Gerry pledged to continue the struggle to free Ireland from British imperialist rule. FRFI sends warm greetings and solidarity to comrade Gerry MacLochlainn. Terry Marlowe

there was a *prima facie* case against them by the use of the Bill of Indictment. McGurk's family obtained a writ of Habeas Corpus against the RUC forcing them to produce him in court. But McGurk had always refused to sign any statements and never had any intention of giving evidence in court, so unable to produce a convincing witness in court, the RUC had to release him on Wednesday 26 October.

It is clear that it is now common practice for the RUC to bribe and intimidate Republicans into turning informer. Whilst Francis Duffy said he was offered £100,000, a new identity and a new home abroad for incriminating people, others such as William McKee are offered a 'standard rate' of £20-50 per week to report on the movements of Republicans in their areas. It is also clear that these latest victories against the use of informers mark only the beginning of the campaign against this latest strategy of the British state and its lackeys, the RUC, to destroy the resistance of the nationalist people to British rule in Ireland.

On 26 October Lord Chief Justice Lowry, backed by a statement in favour of the informer tactic from Sir Michael Havers, British Attorney General, convicted seven men on the word of Kevin McGrady. Earlier, on 5 October, Lowry had thrown out 16 charges against the ten men implicated, saying that McGrady's evidence was 'unsatisfactory and inconsistent'. Two were released (see FRFI33). But, in the non-jury Diplock court, he ignored his own statements concerning McGrady's evidence and went on to sentence the seven men. One, John McConkey, received a life sentence and Jim Gibney, Sinn Fein national organiser at the time of his arrest, received 12 years. Only one man walked free.

There is now a growing concern in the legal profession about the use of informers. On 1 November the Solicitors' Criminal Bar Association held a meeting attended by 21 of the solicitors presently involved in informer cases. All the solicitors involved in these trials have been advised to withdraw from such cases. The statement issued by SCBA also condemned 'the use of uncorroborated accomplice evidence' and called for a meeting with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, to express 'grave concern' at the use of informers.

Despite the retractions of Lean and McGurk and the release of those held on their 'evidence', the informer tactic continues. Gerry Adams said on Friday 21 October, after the release of the eleven implicated by Lean:

'Today's releases do not mean the end of the show trials. On the contrary, today's releases mean that all those institutions, political groupings and individuals who profess an interest in justice should add their voices to the demand for an end to the show trials and for the immediate release of all the victims of this system.'

In Britain all communists, socialists and democrats must add their voices to the demand to end the show trials and the use of informers. It is the duty of all progressive people to join together and campaign here to end this latest strategy and push forward the end of British rule in Ireland.

Pauline Sellars

STOP PRESS

Yet another informer has retracted his 'evidence'. William Skelly, who fingered Robert Lean and 14 other nationalists, has now retracted his RUC-dictated statements. This means that five informers have now retracted and a sixth refused to give his 'evidence' in court. Yet another blow to the corrupt system of using paid perjurers against the nationalist people.